

THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
Gay *BELLARIO*,  
AND THE  
Fair *ISABELLA*,  
Founded on FACTS,  
AND ILLUSTRATED  
With ADVENTURES in REAL LIFE.

---

*Were you, ye Fair, but cautious whom ye Trust,  
Did you but know how seldom Fools are just,  
So many of your Sex would not in Vain,  
Of broken Vows, and faithless Men, complain.*

ROWE.

---

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## INTRODUCTION.

THE first law of sound politics, and indeed of common sense, is to be ever attentive to that branch of any climates natural produce, which does it most honour, and renders it's name the more renowned. It cannot then be looked upon as an unpatriotic endeavour in an english subject, to step forth the future guardian of the fair sex in this kingdom, for whose transcendant beauty we are celebrated far and near. Many a generous sigh, hath been extorted from us on seeing the wretched state and miserable end of many devoted

victims to the barbarity, falsehood, and vindictiveness of those in whom they have mistakenly confided. Which henceforward to prevent is the motive of this undertaking, wherefore the cause will furnish it's best apology.

A full display of our fair sex's influencing and attractive power, equally deserves the attention of strangers, as well as of the natives of these happy islands, where indulgent providence hath lavish'd such inestimable treasures, such never-failing sources of rapturous ecstasy. In what other nation can be found existing, at the same time, so many, and such exquisite resemblances of the ever-acknowledged Queen of Love, the wanton, the gay, the blooming Venus, when indulging transports of fondness, in her favourite bowers of Paphos and Idalia ?

Like

Like to her, their goddess, adorned,  
and ever glorious model of all tender  
efforts, our obliging Priestesses of the  
Temple of Fond Desire, are ever en-  
dowed with an open liberality of em-  
braces, joined to an heaven-born \*  
frankness of heart, and are never so  
pleased as when put to the devout per-  
formance of their duty.—Gods! with  
what an emulous exertion and well-  
timed sublevation of parts, do they  
acquit themselves in the critical minute,  
while their electrified enamoratos,  
with the becoming and vigorous pro-  
pulsion of ardent and zealous votaries,  
press eagerly on to storm the shaded  
citadel of bliss!

In return for the many joyful hours  
spent with these justly revered orna-

• *Query, Whether this epithet, derived through  
Venus, may not more aptly be added here, than to  
the mere mortal defeater of an Indian Nabob?*

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ments of society, the dear devoted sweeteners of the otherwise bitter task of life, this work is calculated to point out a method to them, whereby they may be no more the dupes they have so long, and so shamefully been, to the total decay of their charms, followed by wretchedness and poverty, while worthless pimps, bawds, &c. roll in chariots, and live luxuriously at their expence.

It is here proposed to make known to them, how to convert to their own special use, all the emoluments their attendant harpies get by them, and in return for which they so often behave with the most shocking ingratitude.

There is no kingdom where a pretty girl can bring her charms, her little all, to a better market ; which, if she can but second with a moderate share of cunning,

cunning, and make a proper use of the hints and doctrine herein contained, she need never be a plying, hackneyed object, a street-walking Venus, of brutish and casual fruition; but, by playing off proper artifices, soon obtain the reputable rank of a kept mistress; which, of late years, has proved the surest method, to be sublimed from the dregs of society into a woman of quality.

What an encouragement this is for pretty wenches to make the most of that which nature has given them, was to be seen at a late grand procession, where, at the sight of some coroneted dames, every young demi-rep, among the crowded spectators, might say to herself with a tacit joy, " Yon bedizzened, train-dragging, fine lady, has been a harlot as I am now; and to that she

owes her fortune, otherwise she must have been some poor tradesman's wife, humble Joan, or plain Margery such a one ; but things are now finely altered —well, who knows but I may one day become a lady as well as she. I am sure she has never been near so pretty as I am, nor had so good an education ; and it so appears by her awkward, ungentlewoman-like manner of walking.

—Marry come up, no body ought to despair. —O were I walking in her place, how I would qualify it ; and how insipid would I make all the modest ladies appear !” There is now in embryo a duchess and a countess ready to be launched, as soon as death shall obligingly mow down their matrimonial obstacles.

That the reader may not think this a whimsical undertaking, he is to receive

receive as an axiom (on which we found our instructions) that the noble daughters and noble sons, of whores in this realm, would make a very considerable crowd; and that the mother of a well-known great peer, had at one and the same time, running in her parlour, children by four fathers, all out of wedlock. In all similar cases it would not be amiss to put labels about the necks of the children, as we do about bottles and decanters, containing different sorts of wine, to intimate the names of their respective fathers, in order to prevent mistakes and misnomers.—How few of our present nobility, so be-whored, be-mongrelled, and bastardized as it is, could prove four quarters of an unsullied inheritance by father and mother, to be made canons of certain churches abroad ?

Now, pray, what argument, that would be listened to, has dull and foolish modesty to offer to people of high life, in order to make proselytes of them? —None. What must this poor milk-sop, unprofitable Virtue, do? run out of a kingdom, where most of the titled folks profess such a dislike to and contempt of her; who have so bravely renounced all delicacy in wedlock, and most heroically divested themselves of all sense of family-pride: that, according to antiquated, stale and unfashionable notions, they might transmit purely down to their posterity, the unsullied lineage, and untainted blood which they had received from their ancestors, the price of so many glorious achievements, and for which they now make so intrepid and barefaced a return.

The now exotics, Modesty and Chastity, though banished from the circles of our great ones, are sure of an asylum in the late called Buckingham house, now converted into the palace of every virtue — whence it is hoped a happy contagion will spread throughout the land, unless it should be suspected to relish too much of Scoticism ; which perhaps may be impudent enough to propose debarring all such people appearing at court ! — Exploded notions.

The whole amount of female charms (which cannot fall under any particular definition, because they vary in each particular beholder's eye) consists in either a beautiful, a pretty, or engaging figure. — The French expression, *etre maniére*, to be *mannered*, which contributes so greatly to female sway

abroad, is so unknown here, it is unnecessary to say aught on that subject.

The impetuous custom of making love in England is very well portrayed by many of Polydore's delicate phrases in the *Orphan*; for instance,

Come, *Monimia*, those soft and tender limbs  
 Were made for yielding——  
 The lusty bull ranges thro' all the field,  
 Singles his female out, abandons her at will, &c.

The kind approaches, tender wooings, fond declarations of passion, insinuating arguments, and all other agreeable preludes to enjoyment, are no more of English manufacture. Like the impetuous and resistless Cæsar (who expressed himself in three verbs, *Veni, vidi, vici*) the sense of our young Bucks is conveyed in three verbs—  
*Drink, swear, and — not pray.*

The

The whore at a brothel, that will drink as fast, swear as loud, and boldly refuse being humbled to say her prayers, or any thing else against her will ; if she persevere politically in that mind, will first stagger her booby solicitor, then inspire him with a restless desire of gaining his end ; which if he find hath any opposition or delay, he will bet a wager with some of his rioting companions, that ere such a time he will lie with, and enjoy his adored Dulcinea.—That he may effectually acquit himself, and not lose the bet of a few pounds (every other offer being refused) the whimpering, positive, sulky humourist, rather than be at the trouble of a little artifice, or laying siege to a tottering and open fortress, almost ready to surrender, proffers a settlement first ; that rejected, marriage, and

a good jointure: which the subtle courtezan immediately seizes, and, by noosing her zany lord, becomes her ladyship; no more come-at-able for one pound one, and a tavern treat.

The waiter, who has often rioted whole nights in her arms, if he should go to pay his congratulatory compliments on her sudden and violent promotion, is in return threatened with a kicking from her footman; and is forbid, on pain of corporal punishment, ever after to affect the least knowledge of her; for, like to the Cobler's wife in the farce, she gives herself new airs, and sings to the same tune,

“ No more the common folk shall call me Nell,  
“ Her Ladyship will do as well.



## C H A P. II.

Bellario's *History*, and Rosalinda's sudden *Marriage*.

BESIDES the wilful, passionate blades, who, rather than to be refused or kept at defiance, by what to all but themselves is a publick mart of coition, plunge precipitately into the married state with their every body's Cleopatras; then who so happy as they? — there are some others of a still more surprising turn of mind; to wit, the so-unaccountably captivated, as to pine, to languish, to declare themselves miserable, and unhappy, until they can get a consent of joining in wedlock with that very libidinous Thais, which they, in common with many other of their brother-debauchees, and

and that knowingly too, had enjoyed in those well-known conventicles devoted to prostitution ; in the vulgar phrase called Bagnios, a softer and less offensive denomination than that of stews or brothels. — One of these was the well known youth, whose history we now present you with.

Bellario was descended of a very good family in one of the northern counties, and which (though not decorated with ribband or title) ranked among the foremost in that shire, and more than once furnished it with worthy Representatives in Parliament : nay, since so far back as the reign of Henry the Seventh (a very extraordinary circumstance now-a-days) they flourished without having incurred any blot in their escutcheon, by either having committed any base ungentleman-like

man-like action, or derogated by mismatching themselves with such unworthies, either male or female, as might cause a dishonourable blush, or entail a shameful reflection on their house.

The buck Bellario, born to be the first degenerate of the race, had his first education at Winchester school, from which he was, after being there a certain time, removed to Oxford ; not that either at the former or latter place he ever troubled himself much about study or his books ; for he was an only son, heir to a considerable estate, his fortune still encreasing by the accumulated rents of a long minority, by reason of his father's death, when Bellario was almost an infant.

His over-fond mother too, in order that his constitution or health might not

not be impaired by too much application (of which, from his natural disposition, there was no danger) encouraged him in private not to pore over books, but to abandon that drudgery to those who had a fortune to make, and to rise by their talents in the world: but that, thank God, his fortune, a very ample one, was prepared to his hand, besides a great sum of money which he should be entitled to touch as soon as come to age: therefore what need had he to study, or to pay attention to the grave pedants of an university?

A word was enough to him on that subject; gun-powder does not catch sooner at a spark of fire, than he did at these welcome admonitions of his dear mamma, and which were so congenial to his own sentiments. He thanked her with the warmest expressions

fions of gratitude, and fervently promised to make the best son in the world, by way of dutiful return for all her parental tenderness of him. He vowed, he protested, nay, he swore, that while he and she lived, dear mamma should have the sole managing of the estate; and that he would look upon himself in no other light than that of a true and faithful steward to her. It may be asserted, that at the time of such declaration, never was mother so happy in a son; as at the time of her exhorting him against study, never was son so happy in a mother.

What young Bellario had been at Winchester, he soon proved himself to be at Oxford; to wit, the leading blood of the town. No riotous party of pleasure could be looked upon as compleat without his presence and

co-operation. The actors of those in which he was not concerned, were as gloomy and inert as were the Grecian Commanders before Troy during the absence of Achilles. Bellario was the enlivening, the actuating spirit, that gave new springs, new vigour, and a soul to every excursion of pleasure in which he deigned to embark. For it used to be whispered about among the choice spirits, as the notification of an approaching jubilee: "We shall be  
 " happy to-morrow; Bellario has given  
 " his word to make one with us." As already hinted, the parties where he refused to assist, used to pass off but very unhappily; nay, many were broken off on that account.

Thus joyously, thus unthinkingly, devoted to good fellowship and festivity, Bellario flourished the leading genius,

genius, and admired model, of all his companions.

While he thus reigned paramount of all the elegant idlers of the university, his mother was paid the highest court to by all the parents in the neighbouring counties, who had a favourite daughter to dispose of, in order to insure her happiness, by procuring young Bellario for a husband. Great additional offers to the first intended fortunes of their daughters were procured, in order to bribe a preference of choice in the mother; whom they all looked upon as solely invested with the disposal of her son in marriage. To which belief they were induced by the seemingly entire resignation of his affections, will and passions to her, and of which young Bellario made such strong, and such repeated declarations in

in all his letters to dear mamma. This artifice flattered her maternal vanity to a violent degree; and she in return (the youngster's principal drift by all his affectation of duty and fondness) never failed to send him as much money as he desired; because she had often pronounced it as her sentiment, that her boy should not be baulked of any thing: for that nothing broke young spirits so much as baulking them.

There was a farcical solemnity in the visitations paid to her ladyship, by all the young maiden fortunes of the country, who indirectly assumed the province of courting on the occasion, each using rival efforts to win a predilection in the judgment of the young collegiate's mother; who played her part so well on the occasion, by dis-  
cour-

couraging none in public, and giving in private strong glimmering of hopes to every female candidate, that she in return received daily from them, their parents, relations, and friends, variety of presents, with a view of cementing the promised alliance still stronger and stronger.

While the mother played so cunning and œconomical a game in the country, Bellario's brilliant irregularities at the university (while they dazzled the younger students, and set them all agog, in hopes of imitating them one day) began to appear as a noxious glare in the eyes of the senior fellows, who betook themselves to think it high time to resolve on removing so dangerous an example for youth. So that, after mature deliberation, they gave him his *Congé*, not to use the word *expel*,

pel, and insinuated to him the necessity of his departure, to avoid scandal. Thus we are often told in lying news-papers, we hear such noblemen have resigned their places without pensions, although in fact they had been commanded to withdraw.—Similar to this was young Bellario's case.

However, neither stunned, nor any way concerned, but rather overjoyed, at the hint, he prepared to bid his eternal adieu to the dull and musty seat of the Muses, and hie-away to take his degrees in the more finishing university of Covent-Garden, where already he was not a stranger.

For as it is a custom with the sporting blades of Oxford, to make (when in cash) occasional excursions of a few days to London, he had been early initiated in the practice of those college-

lege-elopements, during which time such absentees are supposed not to have left their limited precincts. In such escapes of horsemanship, nothing contributed to give an higher relish to the frolick, than the riding to death one of the poor hacks of Oxford ; which, as mounted by scholars (a pitiless race) are the most miserable of all hacks, except hackney-writers to booksellers, both beasts of literary burden, good and bad, as it happens.

He had often beat the rounds of the garden (as a new squire of Alsatia, with some trusty captain Hackum to escort and protect him) had frequently swaggered in the Bedford coffee-house, had been introduced to the serene Mr. Tomkins of the Shakespear, had shook hands with the great practitioner Harris, and given a hearty buss and

and smack to Molby. No body could be more welcome than he to all the above celebrated personages while his money lasted. But Bellario, perceiving, on a decline thereof, not only their coolness, but a growing indifference in the girls they had chosen for him, always thought it high time to sneak off, and return to Oxford, however disagreeable.

Thus the man, married, who is always unhappy at home, and ever fond of wandering abroad on every occasion ; yet when he finds that with his exhausted purse, the faces of pimps, bawds and harlots, fraught before with successive and varied smiles, in order to fasten him to their purpose (to wit, his expending to the very last farthing in his pockets) begin to scowl, thinks of a retreat ; and after many struggles, and a long

long deliberation, resolves to turn towards, and face home however formidable and hateful. As he solitarily trudges along, he beguiles his dull way, with half-sung catches and escapes of whistling ; a dull supplement of courage in order to disguise his fear. With a repetition of the old proverb, he gives himself a kind of bastard comfort, to wit, " Pleasure begets pain," and after all, " Home is home, be it ever so homely."

But our Bellario having long since prepared his mama for a compliment of the sort which he had just received, and had long so strenuously laboured to deserve, made but a joke of this literary act of exclusion. He sent a triumphant notification to all his congenial friends throughout the several colleges of the university ; and, like

C                   newly

newly acknowledged potentates, appointed an evening, when he should receive their compliments on the happy occasion ; and sup in public with them to, solemnize, what he called, an honorary disgrace.

All his juniors looked upon him (ready to make his departure) with such an eye of cordial regret, as enthusiasts are wont to look on one of their supposed sanctified brethren, just on the point of being freed from his mortal incumbrance, and being wafted to regions of bliss; whence, in their eye-shut visions, they fancy they can descry angels beckoning to them to make haste.

The last adieu is given to all his dearly beloved and sympathetic collegiates. Bellario is now highly mounted in his phaeton and four, two blacks behind

behind, with French horns following close behind. His postillion gives the alarm-crack of his whip, the blacks ply their wind instruments, *Rauco strepuerunt cornua cantu.* His companions waving their hats, give him the farewell clear. He is off. And (as the expression is) makes the road smoke as he drives along.—He quickens his speed as he darts through village, hamlet, or town (to the great danger of running over old women and children) and all to be the gazed at object of wondering beholders, either in the street, or at the windows, low and high ; thither called by the repeated cracking of the postillion's whip, and the sonorous blowing of his French horns ; his horses all reeking, and covered with foam, the delight of his eye.

The reader is now to imagine him conveyed to a Bagnio in Covent Garden, where the word being gone round the *Purlieus*, that Bellario was arrived, had quitted the university for good, and was come to town, to devote himself entirely to the service of the ladies ; every obliging *Lebia* tricks herself out in her gayest attire, and calls up all the beauties she is possessed of, either by unvarnished nature, or the cunning substitution of art.

Like Mackheath, in the Beggar's Opera, the youth is surrounded with a seraglio of them, each playing off all the artillery of looks and glances, besides now and then partly unveiling the masked battery of a well-turned neck, and snowy bosom. Held in a pleasing suspence, for some time, among so many rival beauties, he at length

length declares for Rosalinda, at that time the most celebrated among the come-at-able beauties. After drinking some bottles of Champagne, he took his leave of the company, saying, he was engaged to sup at the Bedford arms; but had privately whispered Rosalinda, to hasten to a house of kind reception in St. James's street, whither he posted after her, all glowing with passion, and fondness, for the moments of rapturous enjoyment.

Not Jupiter or Alcmena felt more exquisite bliss than he, that night, in the melting embraces of Rosalinda. His desires for, and attachment to her, increased by enjoyment so rapidly, and to such a degree, as to beget in him a jealousy to prevent her suffering any sharer in her charms. He next morning offered to enter into any promise or engagement

in order to ensure her to himself. She slyly replied, that as she had some other engagements, she could not, on so short a warning, be well off in honour; that she must take some time to consider of his proposal. This finesse, according as she intended it, had the wished-for effect, in giving a keener edge to his passion and jealousy. She kissed him with an artful fondness, said, she had inevitable business to go about in the city, but would return to dine with him at four. This intermediate time was given him to bite upon the bridle; that, on his behaviour at her return, she might be better able to form a conjecture of what hold she had got in his heart, and what part she should have to act in consequence, to make the most of him,  
while

while he was young on the town, as the technical term is.

During her absence, he felt violent agitations at the thought of her granting favours to any other person, which ran him into a momentary phrenzy, "Settlement! what signifies settlement?" said he to himself, walking to and fro in the room, "that does not tie her absolutely to me, nor hedge her in from the solicitations of others. Moreover, if I should find a gallant in bed with her, I cannot punish him by law. Besides, fighting with sword and pistol is what I am neither accustomed to, nor have I any relish for. As for a bruising match, I fear nobody. There is no way of securing her to myself, of making her my absolute property, but by marriage." There

he paused, gravely ruminating on the word.

His footman coming abruptly into the room while he was fixed in a deep reverie upon the word *marriage*, Bellario started, and ran up to him in a bewildered manner, crying, “ Well ! “ what news ? What is the matter ? “ What now ? ” — “ Nothing more, Sir, ” replied the servant, “ than a letter “ which I have got for you at the “ Coffee-house, and, by the super- “ scription, I take to be your Mama’s.” Bellario snatching the letter out of his hand, bid him to retire ; he did so, not a little surprised at the flurry in which he observed his master to be.

The servant withdrawn, Bellario opened the letter. It was from his mother, in answer to his last, intimating the likelihood of his speedy dismission

mission from Oxford, and was thence forwarded after him to town, by one of his trusty confidants there. The letter was couched in these terms :

“ My dear Son,

“ You are now come to that period  
 “ of life I long wished to see you at,  
 “ man’s estate ; and, that the large  
 “ inheritance you are now possessed of,  
 “ may be provided with heirs, to  
 “ hinder its devolving to the family  
 “ next a kin to us, and which we so  
 “ heartily detest, I have looked out,  
 “ and find a wife for you in Miss  
 “ Harriet Hazleworth, the richest  
 “ heiress in this or any of the neigh-  
 “ bouring counties, by the fortune in  
 “ land, and ready money, she is now  
 “ possessed of; and that will be dou-  
 “ led, nay, trebled, by the reversions

“ which must fall to her, and the  
“ heirs of her body. If you have  
“ not as yet left the university, which,  
“ by your letter, I find you are on  
“ the point of doing ; on receipt of  
“ this repair immediately to London :  
“ for which place Miss Harriet Ha-  
“ zleworth, Sir James Thrifty her  
“ uncle, as well as counsellor Plead-  
“ little your guardian, and I, set out  
“ immediately, in order to have you  
“ married in London ; and be thereby  
“ relieved from all the impertinent  
“ crowds of visiting friends and re-  
“ lations, ever attendant on a country  
“ wedding. I hope, in this important  
“ article of life, which I have calcu-  
“ lated for your present welfare, as  
“ well as the future happiness of your  
“ family, and the still farther strength-  
“ ening of their interest in this county,

to

“ to prove you a complying and obedient child, as I have hitherto always found you to be, &c.

“ Your affectionate Mother, &c.”

Bellarrio was thunder-struck.—Miss Hazleworth he had long known, could never like, nay, detested her, on account of the sanctity of her manners, as well as her delicate and awe-striking deportment. He blurted out, “ Damn me if I marry her, that is pos.—I quit my charming, my divine Rosalinda, for a raw, green-sickness country-girl, a mere thing of morality ! Forbid it, Love ! forbid it, gallantry ! O Rosalinda, I will be ever your's ! — ”

It being then on the stroke of four, in popped Rosalinda, returning from her sham visit to the city ; and having overheard the last words Bellario had

uttered, he not thinking her so near, she ran to him with open arms (answering with the same tone of voice which he had used) " And I, my " dearest Bellario, will be ever your's." She then clung about his neck, and gave him a world of well-practised kisses.

As soon as he was disengaged from her arms, Bellario, with a significant nod, and shrug of melancholic displeasure, shewed the letter ; which she had no sooner read than she fainted (having always a swoon at command for any critical occasion). The poor enamorato was in a piteous taking, until, as to him appeared, he saw signs of returning life ; when, in a kind of wandering, she muttered, in a half articulate manner, " Must I " then, in the very moment I have  
 " con-

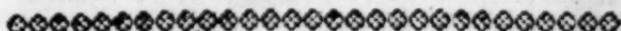
" conceived so ardent a passion for  
 " Bellario, be torn from him, the dear  
 " lovely youth; the only one that could  
 " ever engage my affections before !  
 " —Ah ! cruel god of love, thus do  
 " you always sport with your most  
 " faithful votaries." The revived Ro-  
 falinda gazed fondly on Bellario for a  
 few moments, then threw herself with-  
 out reserve into his arms, as much as  
 to say, what must become of me if  
 you marry ?

But he soon put an end to her fears, by  
 declaring his resolution to marry none  
 but her, which should positively be done  
 that very night ; that Miss Hazleworth  
 might return to the country by the  
 very same road she came, and as soon  
 as she pleased ; and there chuse some  
 bumpkin-squire for her husband, she  
 being no ways qualified as a matrimo-  
 nial

nial companion for one who had seen life : That if his mother should dare to demur, or find fault with his proceeding, he would treat the old Beldam as she deserved, nay, turn her out of the mansion-house, where his dear Rosalinda should alone command.

As he had said, so every aritcle was executed. That night he married Rosalinda, and settled a good jointure on her. His mother, who arrived two days after in London, on account of her inciging against his conduct, he forbid to ever come near him, or return to the mansion-house, which now was his. Thither he set out with his Rosalinda, which made all the fashionable rakes wear the willow. This is a specimen of filial duty in England, and of a hasty stroke of fortune for a harlot, which every adventuring female

female is not to hope for. The arts they are chiefly to rely on, will be contained in the next chapter ; and, in all the subsequent ones, splendid examples will be cited to evince the truth, and illustrate the efficacy of our doctrine.



### C H A P. III.

*On the Rocks to be shunned, and the Arts to be used, by Female Adventurers, to draw Male Gudgeons to their Bait.*

WE have thus far preluded to our main point ; our principal aim of giving precepts to young forlorn beauties how to ward themselves against the many snares laid on all sides to entrap them.

Our answer, to such criticks as may ask,

ask, why we use the word forlorn, is, that we mean not here, by our instructions, to debauch the innocent, by facilitating to them the road to vice. Morality, forbid ! By the word forlorn, we take only under our care and guidance, those unhappy young maidens, who, through the affections which nature hath impassioned us with for pleasing objects, have, by promises of marriage, been lured to their ruin, and become the dupes of their own tenderness, by granting to the siren-voices of delusive wooers, that bliss so often solicited for with tears, prayers, and vows of eternal constancy ; and for which error in kindness the now false monsters in return heap disappointment, shame, and infamy, upon the abandoned fair ones. — Soon to complete their misery, from a first intimation

timation of having deviated from chastity, they are turned out of doors, and their disgrace is proclaimed throughout the neighbourhood, and all their acquaintance, by indiscreet and enraged parents. So for having committed one fault, to the commission whereof every exciting artifice and stratagem had been employed, they are thrust out of their parental home, cut off from the society of relations and of friends ; and for one trespass, in palliation of which nature so strongly pleads, they are put under the dire necessity of living in habitual viciousness too often, to obtain thereby but a most miserable pittance.

The French parents act with infinitely more discretion, as well as more agreeably to nature, religion, and common sense, than the English do.

From

From an early and thorough conviction of the frailty of the fair sex, when a mischance happens to a daughter in France, the parents there are soon made confidents of the fault, which is by every precaution possible kept a secret from the most intimate acquaintance, and nearest relations ; so that often there a young lady goes through her pregnancy, and is delivered in so circumspect a manner, as to have never raised the least doubt of her having come to any knowledge of the difference of sexes.

But in England, where women are rendered so unforgiving, tumultuous, and tyrannical, by their charter of chastity, while they are encumbered with any ; if a poor daughter happens to be overtaken by the consequences of an act of fondness ; no sooner is it made known to her

her mother, than she with a kind of secret triumph, for never having leaned that way, and perhaps for the very good reason of never having been applied to, is the first to roar out, Whore, whore, whore! —

The servant-maid being thus encouraged by the termagant virtue of her incensed mistress, to expose young miss, is impatient to set out on some pretext to communicate the affair with all imaginary zeal, amongst all the folks they deal with, shrewdly observing, “ That, for her part, she “ never would have suspected miss liable “ to become naught: that as how, for “ her own part, she was very well satisfied to be a servant, and honest.” Yet the livery-man could tell some anecdotes of this serving prude, that would

would not prove her to be an absolute vestal.

The father (being electrified with passion by his wife, who had made him concur in the expulsion of the poor girl into the streets) goes to his club, and after smoking a pipe or two, begins to look melancholy. Upon which, being asked the reason, he good-naturedly tells the company, that his daughter is become a damned bitch, an arrant whore ; and that she is now, he believes, with child, ready to lie in by such a one. — “ Ay, ay, gentlemen, you need not stare, the fact is too generally known to be any longer a secret : and my poor wife roars and bellows so loud on the occasion, to every body that comes to enquire of the affair, that I fear it will put an end to her. She can talk of nothing

nothing else from morning to night. Hang the young baggage, to be the cause of such outrageous grief to so good, and so modest a mother ; who, I dare venture to assert, has never been kissed by any man but myself ; and that from her true sense of virtue, and not as folks may think, that her being so deformed by the small-pox, and a hump on her back, have hindered men from saying civil things to her.—Rot the young quean, she is the first strumpet in our family, and therefore she and her brat may lie in the street, there to rot and perish. For not one half-penny, were it to save her from starving, or the gallows, shall she ever get from us."

In vain did the more humane members of the club strive to pacify the violence of his resentment ; which though

though they allowed to be just, they at the same time remonstrated, that many allowances were to be made on account of the sexes weakness, which is so liable to be tempted to trip against virtue's laws, when irresistibly pressed thereto by seducers ; they are by their frame and constitution adapted to like before all others ; and for which preference the ungrateful villains makes too often so base a return. While the sober ones employed all their rhetorick, and every argument their good nature supplied them with on the occasion, to little or no purpose. Some of the younger members of the club ruminated on the disaster with a concealed satisfaction, saying within themselves, Now we shall have a chance to come in for a turn with young miss, heretofore so proud and indifferent

to

to even our modest and honourable addresses. But, by her father's declaration, she must soon come on the town, and be the humble tool of pleasure to those whom she used to slight before.

Thus, instead of (as their humanity should have prompted) thinking how to relieve the distressed young lady; their thoughts were solely turned to farther encrease her misery, by making her dwindle into the venal property of their brutal passions. Each was resolved that no time should be lost, and next morning set their pimps and bawds on having a sharp look out, to find what place miss had taken shelter in, that she might be made sure of. But, alas! her sad situation, lively sense of honour, and overwhelming grief, soon broke her heart, and relieved her

at

at once from the cruel indiscretion of her parents, who should have screened her faults ; as well as from the barbarous designs of miscalled gentlemen, who had formerly thought it a singular favour to be even admitted into her company.

We can no where better than here introduce, what in the setting-out bears so strong a likeness to the above case, though different in its consequences, as,

*The History of fair Isabella.*

**I**N a village, not very many miles distant from that celebrated seat of learning, Oxford, lived T. S. Esq; possessed of a decent competency, and a wife whom he dearly loved. By her he had several children, male and female.

female. The eldest of the females was Isabella, who, on account of the exquisiteness of her form, and beautiful tincture of her skin, was surnamed the *Fair*.

She was the admiration of our sex, as well as the envy of her own. The fame of her beauty rose to such a degree, that those who, by their rank in life, and a parity of fortune, were entitled to pay their addresses to her for a wife, were soon discouraged from pursuing any such vain hopes, on account of the crowds of titled wooers that began to frequent the father's house, in order to gain the affections of the fair Isabella. Although her dispositions had been naturally virtuous, and that her education had rather contributed to strengthen than to enervate sentiments suitable thereto ; yet

D the

the flattering homage paid to her by so many wealthy and titled personages, awakened the latent seeds of female vanity, and by degrees infused a spirit of coquetry into her airs, deportment, and manners.

This change was soon perceived by all those who had formerly known her; who, on comparing notes, would say to each other. "How much the young Isabella is changed, & not in beauty indeed, but in carriage to all who approach her? Formerly she was obligingly meek, and decently reserved. The slightest compliment on her beauty was enough to cause an immediate suffusion of blushes over her cheeks, which, by the intenseness of their crimson tinge, surpassed those of returning light, and proved to every beholder's eye a most enchanting object,

ject, on which they all would gaze for some moments quite enamoured."

But that attractive modesty had, for some time, given place to a more confident behaviour of carriage, she growing daily conscious of her own excellence. All compliments paid thereto were received as her lawful right. Every youth she looked upon as her slave from the very moment of his first seeing her. And if any, by their behaviour, appeared not to be so violently struck with the superior blaze of her charms as she would have them to be, she forthwith pronounced them tasteless and insensible wretches, and soon manifested to them, by sufficient intimations of her scorn, how far gone they were in her dislike. She would pray her papa to contrive matters so, that she might be no longer plagued

with the shocking sight of such disagreeable frights.

Every request of miss was readily complied with, lest a refusal might bring on a fretting; and a fretting prove prejudicial to her beauty: as from its spreading fame some very advantageous match was expected, by whose powerful influence the interest of her family might be raised. The lure of such flattering hopes gave too great a loose to the father's as well as to the mother's indulgence of their daughter. For they let her dismiss, or receive the addresses of wooers, as to herself agreeable. She had *carte blanche*, which may justly be looked upon as the cause of all that followed.

Among the many suitors who paid their addresses to Isabella the Fair, was Lord F—, a younger son of his Grace

Grace the Duke of ——: He was of a remarkably pleasing figure. Moreover, was endowed with all the insinuating arts required to gain the heart of a vain young girl, intoxicated with a thorough sense of the superiority of her own charms ; and ever desirous of having (above all others) ranked in the number of her admirers, whatever elegantly formed youth, who, through that, as well as his graceful manners, and winning addresses, had rendered himself the happy object of the rival wishes of every belle, who had viewed his person, and had heard him talk.

It is not a difficult matter to guess with what secret exultation, and delicious, although silent rapture, her bosom bounded at the thought of having Lord F— declared among the

number of her wooers ; but that also, by the fervency of his application, he appeared the most sanguine of them all.

Thus would she often say to herself, " Well, happy Isabella, you have been born under a fortunate star ! how right have you been to refuse all offers of marriage from untitled suitors ; mere private gentry ! There is something vulgar in the plain appellation of mistress such-a-one. But from the flattering terms, of my lady, and your ladyship, there results an exquisite, nay, an unspeakable satisfaction to the ears. That I should be so lucky as to be singled out in preference to every other beauty, by that all-accomplished, as well as most beautiful young nobleman Lord F—— ! what a fine complexion ; what a skin, what teeth, what eyes,

eyes, what a commanding air, when he puts on his hat and walks about ! and yet how sweetly engaging is the manner of his accosting ? With what an uncommon grace he salutes.— No, there is not an action of his but what is attended with a peculiar elegance ! Then the tones of his voice are so sweet and insinuating, that no woman can resist him ; so that whatever nymph should be by him decoyed, need urge no other plea to palliate, or rather apologise for her faults, than to reply to all censure ; first observe the symmetry of his person, next hear him speak : then pronounce, then blame me if you can ! How will all my school-fellows, all the young, who think themselves the beauties of the neighbourhood, repine, and view me with jealous eyes, when declared

Lord F—'s lawful and wedded companion for life! How will it pierce their hearts with envy, when they hear every body mention me by the title of Lady —. I shall scarce possess and contain myself at the dear bewitching words of My Lady, here is my lady! there is my lady! every where my lady! and what adds to my approaching fortune is, that the Earl of —, my beloved, my adored Lord's eldest brother, is of so sickly a habit of body, of so puny a constitution, that, in the general sense of most people, he is not to be a long sojourner in this world, and that the thread of his days is but short: then (O joy beyond expression) I shall be a Duchess, her Grace!"

One day, at the close of rapturous meditations of this kind, Lord F—

in-

inflamed her ideal bliss to a still greater height, by declaring that he was determined upon marrying her, for that he could live no longer without the enjoyment of her delicious charms ; that there was no existing for him without being the uncontrouled master of all the exquisite attractives profuse nature had so copiously lavished on her. Having warmed her with such declarations, which he soon perceived, by the vivid glow in her cheeks, and keen sparkling of her eyes, he pressed her fondly by the hand, and gave her those honey-fraught clinging kisses, which make a delicate frame to thrill with extasy all over. He then in as gentle, yet as cogent terms as the nature of his addresses would allow, pressed her to make him happy that moment, as they were by themselves, no

prying eye at hand, and that he was all on fire with love.

She strait sprung from his arms, declaring, that, notwithstanding any desire or fondness she might have conceived for his lordship, and which frailty she scorned to deny, but rather gloried to confess ; yet, were her death to be the consequence, she never would betray her honour ; and that his lordship must never hope to attain the point he so ardently wished for, till after marriage. That ceremony performed, she should be bound to obey his will and pleasure, and to correspond with all his desires.

This good effect had a chaste and virtuous education impressed on her young mind. Lord F——, after many attacks repeated in vain, for all which, at the commission of each affront to her

her honour, he used to plead, the violence of his passion for her, an excuse that the vanity of the fair sex sex, so partial in its own behalf, is ever ready to put up with. The less sincere was Lord F—'s pretended fondness, the more artful could he be in his excuses ; for he was in the main not so much actuated by the desire of possessing the beauties of Isabella, as by the vanity of having it known to the world, that he had debauched her whom all his coeval youths admired ; and that it might now be said, no woman could resist him : a character he was very fond of establishing, and had hitherto been pretty successful in his operations.

Finding that nothing would satisfy Isabella but marriage, he bethought himself how he should proceed. It

was

was then about the time the marriage-act had passed. All the flaws and dangerous tendency thereof he had often heard minutely discussed at his father's table, and which he as carefully treasured up in his memory in order to make use of on occasion. Now, in his depraved notion of things, a very brilliant one was offered.

He, after some short hesitation, determined to marry her at all events, in order to make sure of gaining his ends. Thus he reasoned with himself ; “ Since squeamish Miss's delicacy can be soothed, and her honour's alarms quieted with nothing less than matrimony (*impudent ambition !*) with a duke's younger son ! I'll make sure of her by her own foible.—The act just now passed, she, in all probability, has never heard of ; I will therefore propose

propose a private marriage-ceremony, to be performed quite unknown to my friends and relations, till such time as it may be seasonably broke to them, or that intervening death may carry off the old duke my father, who is so cruelly pestered with the gout — that he deceased, I should value nobody else." But then, reflected he within himself, where shall I get a parson to perform the ceremony, that may not demur in conformity with the act, and refuse his office? After rubbing his forehead a while, he bethought himself: Odd-so, there is parson Chubb, my father's domestic chaplain here in the country, whom he has detained for many years to read prayers to the family, and do the honours of drinking to all topping country 'squires at the approach of an election,

election, or any county business, where such right reverend soakers are of great use. " Chubb, added he, never troubles his head about politics, or even reading a common newspaper, his thoughts or enquiries extend not beyond the means of mere brute existence. Perhaps he has never heard of this marriage-act, but so lately enacted ; or if he should have heard thereof, I will explain it to him in what manner I please."

Having thus resolved on Chubb's performing the ceremony in private, Lord F— sent his go-between to inform fair Isabella that he should wait on her that evening to communicate to her a matter of the last importance, and which must likewise afford the highest pleasure to her. Isabella received

ceived the notification with transport, and in return sent for answer, that she would dedicate the evening to him, and expected his company to drink tea with her; and that she would so contrive matters, as that the impertunate presence of a third person should not break in upon or interrupt their *tete à tête*.

Lord F—was punctual in attending at the hour appointed. As soon as they had done drinking tea, he thus addressed her, taking her first gently by the hand, and looking on her with eyes of melting fondness: “ Dearest, “ best beloved Isabella, queen of my “ heart, and sovereign of my soul, the “ notified business of importance “ which I have to communicate to “ you is, that I daily find the violence “ of my passion encrease to such a “ degree

“ for the enjoyment of your unequal-  
“ led charms, (a happiness to be  
“ envied by Jove, and all the heathen  
“ gods) that I cannot live longer de-  
“ barred from that superior state of  
“ bliss.”

Having uttered these words, he with one hand pressed her gently swelling breasts, and with the other turning her head and ivory neck towards him, he gave her kisses of expressive energy, and almost to the taking away of her breath.

As soon as she could disengage herself, she declared her astonishment at what she called his lordship's rude attempt on her virtue, after the solemn declaration she had already made to him on that head. She farther protested that she would ring for the servants, and resolve never to see him more,

whatever pain she should thereby undergo, in case he were to proceed any more in a manner so injurious to spotless chastity.

He threw himself instantly on his knees, asking her forgiveness, seized her hand, which he kissed as an act of humiliation, dropping thereon a few tears of repentance; and declared that the irresistible power of her charms had hurried his dazzled and enraptured thoughts far beyond the intended purport of that meeting.

She, sympathizing, good-natured girl, could not long bear to see the youth, she in her soul so passionately admired, in that suppliant posture, but bid him rise; lucid drops starting from her eyes, suffused with tears of kindness; her bosom the while gently heaving with a reproaching compassion to herself,

self, for having put him in that distress and perplexity: which the young artificer of fraud acted in so masterly a manner. She modestly encouraged him to pronounce whatever he had to communicate, so that the meaning was of such a nature, as that female virtue might have no room to be startled, or his conveying aught unfit for the ears of decency to hear.

The fly one strait replied — “ By  
 “ your dear Elf, the most sacred oath,  
 “ that, next to Omnipotence, my now  
 “ sincere, fervent, and ever unalter-  
 “ able passion thinks it can take, I  
 “ mean to utter nothing but what the  
 “ purest honour dictates, and what  
 “ the chaste vestal that ever existed  
 “ might without blushing hear.”

At this seemingly ingenuous and candid declaration, Isabella resumed

a countenance placidly sedate, and that marked her expectation mixt with doubt and joy, in hopes of hearing his lordship come to the point she had so long desired, to wit, a promise of marriage.

Without any preamble, Lord F— thus opened his mind to her :—“ Dear “ Isabella, thou fairest among the “ fair, thou most beautiful of thy sex, “ long have I struggled to subdue the “ passion with which love has inspired “ me for you ; but in vain. From “ the vain repetition of such defeated “ efforts it still acquired new vigour. “ Your modest refusals to comply with “ the ardency of my desires have but “ the more heightened my esteem, “ and the more enflamed my passion “ for you ; which rages through me “ even in this very instant, that I am  
blessed

" blessed with your presence, to such  
 " a violent degree, as will not suffer  
 " me to live, to breathe, or to exist  
 " many days, without being made  
 " the lawful master, and uncon-  
 " trouable possessor of my now  
 " honourable wishes; wherefore,  
 " lovely maid, my fixed determination  
 " is to marry you, to make you Lady  
 " to Lord F.—."

(At this her heart bounded with joy,  
 her eyes sparkled triumphantly, and  
 her lips quivered with exstasfy) " and  
 that ere yon glorious orb, the re-  
 fulgent sun, shall twice set upon one  
 hemisphere, and leave the world in  
 darkness."

But Isabella replied on the instant  
 with a betraying warmth of her fond-  
 ness for his lordship, and mutual im-  
 patience for the happy hour; " How?  
 " when

“ when is the time? where the  
“ place? who shall be present? who  
“ will be the properest person to per-  
“ form the marriage-ceremony?”

On all these articles his lordship soon satisfied her, by appointing her nurse's house the place of rendezvous (whom in the interim she was to bind to secrecy) and the more so, as she was to be the witness; that he, on his side, would bring no body but honest drinking Chubb the parson, remarkable for his taciturnity in every other article of life, save that of drinking toasts. But that for keeping a secret of that sort, he has been often experienced to be as dumb as peeping Tom of Coventry, the stupendous Giants of Guildhall, the antient Kings of Ludgate-hill, and the present marble representations of Worthies and

and eke Unworthies in Westminster-abbey.

They soon agreed ; next evening was appointed. They kissed and parted. Lord F—'s imagination warmed to the highest with the transporting idea of his being so soon to enjoy the transcendent beauty of Isabella ; whose fancy on her side was warmed to the highest degree, with the flattering notions of becoming ere long a Lady ; and what added to her joy, the daughter-in-law of a Duke.

As soon as my Lord was gone, Isabella sent for her nurse ; who, living not far from her father's, hied to her, waddling along with a glad precipitancy, to manifest on all occasions her affection for her dear child, as she called her. No sooner was she come into the apartment of Isabella, than  
she

she cried out with tones of affectionate zeal, " Well, the blessing of heaven " on thy sweet face, what does precious " want with me now ? Has fair Isabella " any commands for her own nurse, " who is never so happy as when she " can do any thing to oblige or please " the sweetest babe that ever she or " any other woman had nursed ? "

I thank you, good nurse (Isabella replied with a smile of most cordial courtesy) for your kind inclinations in my behalf, as well as for your constant tenderness of me during my infancy ; and since, for your assiduous attention to, and zealous solicitude for my welfare. Sit down near me, for I have a matter of the greatest consequence to communicate to you, and with which but one more besides the parties concerned is to be entrusted.

Does

"Does it concern thy welfare, sweetest," answered nurse? "It does, it does," rejoined Isabella; upon which nurse laying her hand upon her breast, "Then since it is for thy welfare, chicken, may I be exposed to public shame, and to the severest tortures, if ever I reveal it but at thy request, but by thy own command. Mercy renounce me if I do."

"Then know, faithful nurse, quoth Isabella, pressing her hand at the same time with some earnestness, and in order to still insure a greater degree of secrecy, that I am to be married, and that shortly, even as thy heart could wish." "I am glad on't, I am glad on't, child, interrupted the nurse; but to whom? to whom? pray, is it to any body I know.—I hope, sweeting, to a gentleman, to a person worthy of thy

thy beauty, worthy of thy birth, worthy of thy education.

Then, Isabella—"not to any body you intimately know, but to one you have often heard of, nay whom you have sometimes seen. "In the name "of goodness now, who can it be?" said nurse, in an agreeable surprise—"Why, cannot you guess, fool?" added Isabella. "No, not I for the very "life and soul of me," asserted nurse, in a kind of quandary, mixed with a strong desire of being informed.

"Then learn, simpleton," briskly answered Isabella, patting nurse under the chin, "the person, my future husband, master, and lord, ay lord, never start at the word, whom I said you have often heard of, nay, have sometimes seen, is no less than lord

F—, the duke of —'s second son.

“ How ! ” hastily exclaimed nurse—  
 “ Lord, F—, the duke of —'s second son.”—“ Ay, ay, (retorted Isabella, tossing her head, with an air of triumph) the very same, lord F—,  
 “ the duke of —'s second son.”

Then, quoth nurse, throwing her walking-stick away, “ my cares are over, my cares are over ! and shall I live to see the day, to see my little Isabella a lady ? and who knows but one day a lady-duchess too, as my lord's elder son is of so very sickly a disposition ? All in good time, all in good time, say I. Your ladyship's fortune will not stop here. Well, I always had a foreknowledge, which some folks can witness, and to whom I told my thoughts long since, “ that

“ that Providence had not given my  
“ Isabella such an extraordinary share  
“ of beauty but for some very singular  
“ intent; which presageing of mine is  
“ now, thank heaven, at the point of  
“ being accomplished. I remember  
“ too that the fortune-tellers, to whom  
“ I shewed her when an infant, being  
“ ever curious to inquire about her  
“ future destiny, on the first look-  
“ ing into her hand used to gaze on her  
“ with eyes of satisfaction, and, by rai-  
“ sing their hands up towards the sky,  
“ intimate that she was to be raised to  
“ a very high rank in life. And in  
“ this case, the fortune-tellers have at  
“ least been true, so they are not upon  
“ all occasions venders of impositions  
“ and falsehood, as their enemies would  
“ make them out.”

Thus they remained chatting together.

gether till far in the night ; when nurse, who was under no manner of check or controul about the house, departed, whispering in Isabella's ear, " You will sleep but little to night ; we must contrive matters for to-morrow night, your bridal one ; nay, I have thought on a scheme how you shall pass it at my house ; so good night, my sweet" . . . Isabella conducting nurse to the door, squeezed her by the hand, and said, Thank you for your attention ; good night dear nurse, good night. Home the nurse went, it being not far ; and Isabella went to bed.

In the mean time Lord F — being returned to his father's, sent his servant to look about for CHUBB.—In every part of the house was he sought for in vain ; but as there was ever an almost certainty of finding him (when

missed

missed about the duke's) at one of the neighbouring public houses, the servant hasted thither, and there found him with a pipe in his mouth, in the midst of a cloud of smoke, inarticulately dealing out some fragments of morality, and descanting on the merits of sobriety, to a few neighbouring farmers, proud of being honoured with the doctor's company, and hearing retailed through him some curious matter from the duke's, who, as a great man, must (in their opinion) know every thing.— Chubb's custom was to tell them some facts, ornamented with frequent flourishes of episodic lying; so that he was ever sought for, and invited to every merry meeting, or the spending of a wager lost by any of the neighbouring country-bumkins, who were all implicit in him. His judgment was a

law to them, he had attained an almost patriarchal authority over them by the merit of sheer drinking without intoxication ; for he had a very strong stomach, though a very weak and unfurnished head : but the former qualification is of great weight, and very recommendatory in the country.

On receiving the summons from Lord F——, he entreated the company would excuse his absence for awhile, and that the business he was sent for being dispatched, he should return immediately. None made any objection to his going, nor needed he to have offered any apology, as they all knew him to be a true card, a staunch one, that scorned to flinch, or stay a minute longer from his glass, than the absolute necessity of business should require.

Off hurried Chubb with the sum-  
moning

moning servant, who having conducted him up to lord F——'s apartment, there left them. Lord F—— got up as the Doctor came into the room, took him by the hand, enquired about his health, accompanied with a few common place questions ; to all which Doctor Chubb replied with an awkward aiming at politeness, and the usual stiff formality of the church, concluding with an humble desire of knowing his Lordship's commands.

“ Parson Chubb, said his Lordship, are you my friend ?” “ Most devotedly,” replied the churchman ; “ how can your Lordship doubt it ?” Were I not your friend, you being the son of my most noble patron, the Duke your father, the world would have but too much reason to look upon me as the most ungrateful, the most worthless,

the most abandoned wretch in life. For when I consider it, what was I, but as I may say, an abject worm, an obscure, and absolutely unknown being; till the patronizing rays of favour demanding from the gracious forehead of your illustrious sire shone upon, and raised me, as it were, from the nothingness of poverty, into the comfortable existence of his domestic chaplain. Permit me therefore, my Lord, to cite to you on this occasion the lines of a brother church-man and poet :

Shall I prove ungrateful? shocking thought!—  
He that's ungrateful has no guilt but one,  
All other crimes may pass for virtues in him.

Then, my Lord, how can I chuse but to be your friend; nay, to be a friend to the last retainer of your family, a family to whose bounties for unworthy

worthy me, I can never make a sufficient, or in any shape an adequate return? And —

Here Lord F— stopped the Doctor as he was proceeding in his professions of gatitude.—“Enough, good Doctor, “ I believe you; but let us now to the “ act of friendship I want of you,” said his Lordship.—At this the parson bristled up into attention, collecting himself significantly, and looking the while at his Lordship, with a mixed air of desirous enquiry to know the fact, and of compliance on his side.

“ To cut the matter short, and “ make use of no round-about phrases “ with you, my honest friend, and fa- “ mily’s friend, trusty Chubb; know, “ that upon what I want you to do “ me, depends my happiness.”—De- “ pends your happiness, my Lord? said

parson. "Yes, my happiness, Chubb."

—“And is it in my power to assure it? quoth he.—“Undoubtedly,” replied Lord F—. “It is for that especial purpose I have had you called to me.”

—“Then, my lord, conclude it done,” affirmed the priest; “may I” with an impatient joy, said Lord F—. “To remove all your Lordship’s doubts,” rejoined Chubb, seizing at the same time a Bible that happened by mere chance to be in his Lordship’s apartment, which he kissed, and thus proceeded, “By the sacred contents of this book, the support of our Levitical tribe from age to age, as far as in my poor power to execute, your Lordship’s will shall be obeyed.”

“Then, Chubb (replied Lord F—, looking earnestly on the expecting parson, who was all agog to hear the business,) ”

business,) learn that I am determined to be married to-morrow evening to a beautiful young Lady ; without the possession of whose charms I am miserable, and so shall continue, if you refuse your friendly hand in this affair."—" My Lord," stammered Chubb, " who is the Lady ?"—" Who else think you it can be but the " fair Isabella ?" answered Lord F.—

Chubb replied, " That the transcendency of her beauty is by all confessed, I own ; but her fortune is no way adequate to what one of your birth and rank is entitled to. Besides, I know, by words often escaped from his grace the Duke your father, that, by virtue of your extraordinary personal accomplishments, he was sure of your gaining the affections of some of the richest heiresses in

the kingdom. What a baulk then will your marrying fair Isabella be to his sanguine hopes?"

Here Lord F—, remarkably quick at invention for any mischievous purpose, bethought him of a stratagem to hit in plump with the objection started by Chubb. "Why, man," added he, "that is the very actuating motive that spurs me on to matrimony; for I have within these two days learned that Isabella's uncle, a governor in the East-India service, lately dying, has bequeathed an immense fortune to his brother her father, upon his decease to be equally shared between Isabella and her young brother, the whole to devolve to whoever survives.—Now the necessity of our sudden marriage arises from Isabella's father proposing to take her immediately to

to Bath, that her beauty and fortune may there get her for a husband, one of our most wealthy heirs, and a title to boot. As I am but a younger brother, and little hopes to be grounded on my elder brother's sickness, who has dragged on so long ; her father (she and I fear) would never consent to her marrying me, since the receipt of this news, although before he allowed me every encouraging opportunity : but now his views are altered.—It is consequently our joint desire to be immediately married, in order to put it out of the power of her parents to thwart our happiness. You are then to meet us at her nurse's house at five to-morrow evening." The parson (as required of him) raising his hand to his bosom, promised the strictest secrecy as to the marriage, punctuality as

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to the time appointed; made a bow, and withdrew. "So far, so right," quoth my Lord.

Next evening (till when seemed to the betrothed a tedious space, and, in the lovers phrase, an age. Often in their amorous impatience did they abuse flow-footed Time for not moving faster, and often chid him, as if his being so tardy-gaited was maliciously contrived, and done on purpose) the parties rendezvoused at nurse's house, who took care to decorate her little apartment, and prepare matters in the best manner for her guests and the blissful occasion.

The parson called Lord F— to the garden, to ask, if there was no danger that might accrue to him from the marriage-ceremony he was going to perform, in consequence of the lately talked

talked of act concerning marrying minors? Chubb here made choice of the wrong person to receive right information from. Lord F—, who was endowed with a great presence of mind, recovering quickly from the flurry (unperceived by Chubb) this question had thrown him into, replied, with all the effrontery of a disciplined evidence in the courts of justice, " that if the intended act he glanced at had taken place, to be sure there might be some danger; but that, by a great majority, it was thrown out, or at least put off to the next session of parliament. Moreover, according to the wicked spirit of that act, I should be in the most danger; the tenor of it, in a very especial manner, making it capitally criminal for any person, no matter of what rank or condition, to marry without

without the consent of the parents, of an heiress, which Isabella is now ; her uncle, the late East-India governor, having willed to her such a considerable sum. And, to confess the whole truth to you, it is the desire of being master of so considerable a sum, that induces me to marry her. It will not be displeasing to my father ; that I can assure you—You know he loves money above all things : this proceeding is all by his advice, which he thinks would not be consistent with his dignity to have any hand in. You understand, Chubb”—“ I do ;” replied the Parson. “ I see through the whole affair ; let us return to Isabella, lest she should be alarmed at our absence.”—Lord F— led the way, the parson submissively followed.

While Lord F— and Chubb were out,

out, nurse and young Isabella had their conference on a matter of no small importance ; and which was, reader, no less than to settle how the bridal-night was to be made out. At the very mention thereof, an instantaneous blush took possession of Isabella's countenance, accompanied with a trepidation of her whole beauteous form, and that flutter of heart and spirits usually attendant on the wished, yet dreaded approach of such critical minutes.

Nurse, on perceiving the confusion young Isabella was in, gave her an encouraging chuck under the chin, bid her to be of good heart, for that she had taken care of that matter for her own little dear ; then opening a door that gave into the parlour, where they were, shewed her a bed made up in very good taste, with an eye-clearing, and

and most inviting simplicity, " You have only to send word home, that you intend to pass the night in my house, as you are often allowed to do ; and as soon as the parson's part is over, let him and Lord F— be seen to go off by your father's house on their return home to the Duke's, and that in such a manner as to be necessarily seen by some of the servants, which will remove any cause of suspicion ; but the Lord is to return privately when dark ; so, by managing things with prudence, your marriage may be kept secret till such time as things will speak for themselves".

Isabella listen'd all the while, implicitly submissive to what was spoken by nurse, who was pleased to find no demur on miss's side. To Lord F—and parson Chubb, just returning from the garden,

she

she repeated her contrivance, which met with their joint approbation ; and a pecuniary earnest of my Lord's future friendship for her, who flattered her vanity at the same time, by declaring her a very cleaver notable woman. She thanked his Lordship, and lowly courtesy'd.

We are now to suppose the verbal ceremony performed, the Lord returned privately as nurse had settled matters ; and without any minute observation of the manner of undressing themselves, fancy them both in bed.

Here also we give a loose to all possessed of warm imaginations, to represent to themselves, in the most lively and enrapturing colours, the tumultuous transports of the new married pair, swimming on an ocean of bliss ; where, to use the poet's impassioned words,

Like

Like light and heat incorporate they lay ;  
They bless'd the night, but curst the coming day.

Thus several weeks, many months, were passed in amorous dalliance: she happy in the secure enjoyment of his embraces, whom she looked upon as her lawful and wedded Lord ; while he, false deceiver, received an additional zest, in such blissful moments, from the base reflection that by the late marriage act she was not his wife, and that it was in his power to cast her off at will, as soon as he should grow satiated of her beauty, and become surfeited with her claims, or that her pregnancy should allow the transaction to be no longer kept a secret.

In this amorous intercourse let us leave them, and fill up the time to Lord F—'s breaking off, and declaring himself a villain, with remarks which

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are apposite to the adventure that is now related of the fair, but unfortunate *Isabella*; and with still more propriety in this place, as she was one of the first sufferers, perhaps the very first person injured by the evil tendency of an act, which has been the ruin of thousands. This effect we are charitably to believe was far from the intent of its abettors.

This law is far from being conceived on the genuine principles of our British constitution, wherein from a rotation of property, arises the chief energy of the state, whose political vitality flows from commerce. Therefore all unnatural congestions, or obstructions of wealth in any particular class of people, must prove detrimental, nay, in time destructive of the whole, where the flourishing of

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the power depends so much on a co-equality of legal rights among the subjects. Whereas, on the reverse of such tenets, this act has been modelled on Gallic maxims; a reason sufficient for us to abhor it, were there none other.

In France, the Nobility make a distinct class; and indeed they vainly look upon themselves as if made of a more refined earth, and cast in superior moulds to those of other men, to wit, the commercial, &c. — By this ridiculous notion the French crown has always a numerous Nobility disqualified from improving their fortune, by any useful or laudable means, and the only left to them is that barbarous one of destroying their own species.

Therefore such care is taken to prevent the marriages of nobles with Plebeians, no private wedlock there is of any force

force until the parties be of age : When any such has been attempted, the officiating priest, the husband, and the assistants, have been severely and publick punished, besides being stigmatiz'd with infamy for life, banished France, &c.

If a young Lady there of a great family, or (what by most men is more desirable) a great fortune, lets escape her having any symptoms of kindness, or the least liking for a person not born on the same Gothic rank of imposed elevation with herself, tho' by his natural good qualities, and farther improvements and acquisitions by a liberal education, deserving of any woman ; yet on such occasions the French parents, next relations, trustees, or guardians, pay no regard to (what ought to be, and is so highly valued  
by

by other nations), a superiority of talents; but on the first intimation received of such an amour being commenced between the nymph under their inspection, and a person of inferior birth, a caution is first given to him to desist, joined with this remonstrance, that all such courtship is in vain, for were love so favourable as to influence her to consent to a marriage, the fortune she was entitled to, supposing she had married suitable to her birth, would, consequent to her having done the reverse, (according to the custom and usage of the country), be for ever kept from them.

If the wooer, notwithstanding such admonition, encouraged by her still encreasing inclination for him, were still to continue paying his adoration to that forbidden fruit, then application

tion is made to the magistracy, who, by authority of the court, issue forth a *Lettre de cachet*, to banish the spark immediately from the realm; and another to arrest, and put into close confinement young Mademoiselle, in which ever of the nunneries, her parents, next relations, trustees, or guardians, should think proper to make a choice of: and there she is to remain (not to enter into a religious life, but in quality of a pensioner; not permitted to receive any letter but what is opened, or be allowed to see any person, but those particularly specified and presented to the superior of the house) until such time as they shall please to let her come abroad; which is most commonly granted upon no other terms than her consenting to marry the husband they have chosen

for her, or upon certain information  
of her enamorata being dead.

But, in happily constituted England, where no such violent infringement can be imposed on the liberty of a subject, how is it possible to hinder a girl of great birth and fortune marrying the man she likes, be his birth ever so obscure, or fortune ever so narrow and circumscribed? Because where a fortune is in the case, supposing the beloved wooer to have no property of his own; yet upon declaring the promising situation of his affairs, if properly seconded in his amours, there are money-adventurers enough to be met with in this great city, and throughout the kingdom, to advance, for a stipulated premium, a sum sufficient to pay all necessary expences for the enamoured pair's travelling to Edinburgh, Dublin, Holland, &c. to have themselves married entirely

tirely beyond the reach of a purblind act; which, it is obvious, no way affects those whom it was mistakenly meant to preserve: but has caused variety of mischief among the poorer sort, whose desire of marrying ought to be encouraged by all means, so far from having any clog put thereto. For now every artful young fellow under age promises marriage, and thro' that bait, watches his opportunity (as nothing but what is honourable is apprehended) until perfidiously debauching, thro' the energy of oaths, imprecations, and false vows, he accomplishes the irretrievable ruin of some fond, believing, and unhappy girl.

What reparation to his misled country in the senate, and ravaged innocence thro' every county and parish in the kingdom, can the noxious spider of such a web make? —

Was then his over-reaching and hungry rapaciousness of such an exclusive temper, as to bear the thought of none other being upstarts in fortune besides his own family? How deserving of the fortunes they have been obtruded upon, the public hath long since made an adequate judgment?

Who can help being actuated with the keenest sense of indignation against such a mongrel in legislation, that but thinks on fair *Isabella*, fallen the early victim of that odious, that unpopular act, whence no one good can possibly derive, but by which such various ills have been produced? —

Now, alas! it is time to relate the hard fortune of *Isabella*. One morning she felt a qualmishness, with a tendency to puking, which she communicated to nurse, who, upon examination

mination of affairs, declared to her (she being consummately knowing in that article) that she was undoubtedly with child; and advised her, when the like symptoms should happen, to keep up in her chamber, to avoid giving any suspicion, till such time as matters should be contrived by them and Lord F—, in order to make known her situation against the time of the advancing pregnancy; first to her parents, and then to his. She bid her be of good heart, and that she should send to her Paramour, to acquaint him of his being a father, and let her know next morning his sentiments thereupon.

Nurse, in the evening, sent a faithful messenger, upon some pretence or other, to the Duke's; there to seize on the first opportunity of informing Lord

F—, that goody such-a-one (the nurse) wanted to see him about business of consequence. Lord F—, imagining that Isabella, actuated by an amorous fit, was at their wonted rendezvous, in tender expectation of him, told the messenger he should go thither immediately.

Lord F— was received by nurse with a smirked-up face of gaiety and congratulation. “ O my Lord, my Lord, said she, I have the finest, the purest, the rarest news for you.— Can you guess it, my Lord? No, I believe not ; and yet it will make you so glad, so glad ! Ah ! my Lord, you are mighty wicked, mighty head-strong ; but then you are so comely, and so handsome, there was no resisting you : —no, lack-a-day, I cannot blame my poor tender lambkin, my sweet Isabella :

bella :—had I been myself a score years younger, I could not, I verily believe, have answered for my own chastity."

Lord F— stared, not knowing what to make of all her rhapsodical stuff; and not seeing Isabella appear, began to imagine that nurse had a mind for a green gown, and to try his prowess in gallantry. That thought at first made him look a little serious; but soon recovering himself, he burst into a fit of laughter: " Why, nurse, is it so very violent with you? hoity toity! why you are for falling to *sans ceremonie*; I fancied that the hey-day of your blood had been long since over;—but as the song says,

The fruit that will fall without shaking,  
Indeed is too mellow for me."

" O ! the goodness of it ; what does your Lordship mean ? Mercy on me,

I hope that no such thought could come into your head : what, that I at my time of life ! Heaven forgive us all our sins.—Marry, and *amen* ; that I, I say, should, at my time of life, think of the sinful amusements of the flesh ? O ! no, no, no ; my sweet young Lord, that is not my business with you : it is quite of another nature, and what by your own headstrong forwardness you must have had reason to expect."

" In the name of common-sense, what is it ? " replied abruptly Lord F—, and with some emotion of anger, " Why keep me so long on the tenter hook of expectation ? In a word, answer, Is fair Isabella to be here to night ? "

" Why so angry, my sweet young Lord, to one who brings you agreeable

able news," said nurse in a soothing tone, in order to divert his rising passion. " Is fair Isabella to be here to-night, you ask? No, not she indeed, you have put it out of her power, my Lord."

" I have put it out of her power!" quickly retorted Lord F—; " why thus speak in riddles and ænigmas, as if thou wert High-priestess to the temple of croſs-purposes? If you have the least regard for my friendship, instantly give vent to whatever may be brooding in your mind; if good, in joy-inspiring terms; if bad, why then give thy ill-omened sense the worst of words. I am proof, and can stand the shock; but perplex me thus no more."

Nurse, whose over-cleverness on the occasion had meant to excite quite

gentle, instead of angry expostulation ; thus humbly remonstrated to Lord F—, “ Far be it from me to presume, or to take any liberty whatsoever with your Lordship, beyond the bounds of that familiarity with which you have been pleased to honour me hitherto. The amount of all I have to say to you is, that your wife, your fair Isabella, appears to be so far advanced in her pregnancy, as that it cannot much longer be kept a secret ; wherefore matters must be concerted on both fides, for the communication thereof to her parents, and to your Lordship’s.”

At the word wife, Lord F— winced ; which emotion unsuspecting nurse attributed to his tender feeling, and kind sympathy for Isabella’s present situation, and the pangs of child-bearing

bearing her delicate frame must undergo."

That nurse might form no surmise of any foul play from his being so immediately disconcerted, he bid her to repair forthwith to comfort Isabella; and to assure her, that he, on the first opportunity, which he hoped should be next evening, would meet her at nurse's, and there concert matters according to her desire.

Isabella was pleased with the message nurse brought to her, and consequently took care to be next evening at the usual rendezvous. But thither my Lord neither came nor sent any excuse. This first disappointment caused no great alarm, either to nurse, or to Isabella; they ascribing it to a thousand accidents that might have intervened. Another, and another even-

ing passed, but no Lord, no message; they both began to apprehend that his Lordship, through some sudden attack of sickness, might be confined to his chamber; and that, through excessive fondness for his dearly beloved, he did not chuse to let her have any intimation thereof, lest it might dangerously affect her, considering the situation she was in.

Nurse, therefore, determined that she would go next morning, and have enquiry made, whether Lord F— were in health, or not. As she had resolved, so she did. But to her great surprise, got for information, that the very morning after she had communicated to Lord F— Isabella's condition, he set off before break of day, with parson Chubb, for London.

Nurse was thunder-struck at the news

news of so unexpected an elopement ; but had presence of mind enough to let nothing escape, that might excite any conjecture in the person she spoke to, of what had befallen Isabella.

Homeward she returned with a heavy and an aching heart, often stopping on the way, to bethink her of what might have been the occasion of Lord F—'s going off in that private manner. She was still more puzzled in devising what could have been the motive of parson Chubb's going along with him.

As soon as nurse had communicated news so disagreeable to the expecting fair, who was waiting at her house, Isabella fainted ; and scarce was she recovered but she relapsed again into swoon after swoon. Then taking nurse by the hand, and looking wishfully at her,

her, she, in the midst of sighs and groans, discharged her tortured heart with these melancholy words : “ I am ruined, I am undone, my honour is lost ; O foul stain to virtue, which now can never be washed out. Who could have formed the most distant suspicion of any such cruel treatment from Lord F—, who seemed to be all gentleness and courtesy ? who in his love-declarations seemed to breathe the warmest and sincerest vows of never-failing constancy ? Ah ! me, ah ! me, what is likely to be my fate ! ”

While Isabella was spending the little spirits she had left, in useless and unavailing complaints, a letter was brought, directed to nurse, by a coachman that drove the stage by the road adjoining to her house. He said it required

quired no answer ; that he was paid before-hand for bringing it by two gentlemen, one young, the other middle-aged, he met at an inn upward toward London ; so bid them good bye, as he was to make the best of his way before night.

The coachman gone, nurse opened the letter. The outside was a cover to her addressed, within it was no writing. But enclosed was a letter directed to Isabella, which she eagerly opened ; and being soon made acquainted with her unfortunate and deplorable situation, she fell speechless on a bed just by her, the letter dropped from her hand, which nurse took up and read. The contents were as follow, according to a transcript taken from the original.

“ FAIR

## “ FAIR ISABELLA;

“ That when I first courted you,  
I loved you beyond all others of your  
sex, is most certain ; nay, my passion  
was then so ardent, that I thought it  
could never know a period ; but such  
is the fatal consequence of enjoyment,  
which I so perfidiously, and so artfully  
solicited you to grant, that after the  
three or four first nights of our lying  
together, and indulging, without con-  
troul, every rapturous impulse, I felt  
my hitherto violent fondness gradually  
to subside. After which progressive  
coolness (which you might have easily  
perceived in my slackened fervor, my  
kisses being no longer fraught with  
the same fiery impression as before)  
reflection began to gain ground upon  
me, by shewing in the strongest light,  
that

that it was neither for my interest nor your's, that we should marry, upon the account of neither of us having any fortune;—that it would be therefore laudable in us both to seek for a more advantageous match, you in a husband, I in a wife.

For you are to observe, my dear, we are not married according to the sense of a late act of parliament ; and that parson Chubb might not be punished for marrying us contrary thereto, I take him up to London, in order to get him shipped off as a chaplain to a regiment in one of our settlements abroad, of which my uncle is colonel.

“ I hope you will not take this declaration to heart, inasmuch as your good sense must tell you it is for our mutual good.—Consult with your nurse, who

who is a prudent, notable woman, and she will give you wholesome advice, how to manage your conduct in the present dilemma.—I own I feel for you as tenderly as possible; and be assured that nothing but a view to your interest, as well as to my own, could have induced me to take this step.

“ By managing affairs with circumspection, you may advance in your pregnancy unsuspected; and be delivered, without any body but nurse’s being privy thereto. She, I am convinced, is too much your friend, and too sincerely attached to you, to blab on the occasion. So that you may, by keeping your own secret, pass for as good a virgin as ever: which that you may (as you are never to have any resource in me) is the parting advice, and

and strenuous wish of him who was once your lover ; but who, in honour and truth, can now subscribe himself under no other character, than that of, **MADAM,**

Your most humble, and  
most obedient servant,

F—.”

As soon as nurse had come to the end of the letter, she let fly a volley of imprecations against his perjured Lordship. “ The traitorous villain,” she said, and not without some air of probability, “ has written in this cool and taunting manner, purposely to strike a dagger in her heart, by filling her mind with despair, and the most gloomy apprehensions.

“ Lie there, poor injured lamb,” she cried ; “ happy, thrice happy, if you were

were never to rise out of that trance. How, alas ! will you be able to see your father ? how look your mother in the face, when this dishonourable adventure, to so reputable a family, can be no longer hid ? In what a despicable light must I stand with them, for having been privy, nay, instrumental to the debauchery of their favourite child ! How will they upbraid my never giving any intimation of Lord F—'s designs to them ; all which, upon their knowledge of the late act of parliament, they could have prevented ; or so have contrived matters (if his Lordship's passion egged him on) as to have fastened him in such a matrimonial noose, as he should not be able to draw his neck from.

“ Then all their resentment will fall upon me, as the sole cause of the family's

family's disgrace, and the young lady's ruin. I shall, in consequence, be turned out of this little farm, and house, which I hold but from year to year, at the discretion of Isabella's father, who takes no rent from me. What a fine return have I made for such generosity? What shall I do? what is to become of me? and what will be the lot of poor Isabella?

" The violence of her parent's temper is such, that they will turn her out of doors like an arrant jade; they will be deaf to all arguing and remonstrance.—What if I go to his Grace, the Duke, and tell him how unworthily his son, Lord F—, has acted both of himself and family. How barbarous it was to have taken her unsuspecting innocence in, with a sham marriage performed by his chaplain

Chubb,

Chubb; then to leave her in such a vile manner, and instead of consoling, to write her such a provoking letter—But his Grace hates her family, and has been in his youth as bad as his son. He will, therefore, pay no attention to my complaint; but, perhaps, have me turned out of his house with indignity: what to resolve upon, I know not."

By this time a deep-fetched groan from the bed, notified Isabella's coming to herself, and reviving from the trance she had been in.

" Ah ! nurse, nurse," quoth she,—  
 " ah ! my child, my child," replied nurse, pouring out a flood of tears, and throwing herself down by her on the bed, thus uttered her melancholy thoughts. " Was it for this I suckled Isabella ? was it for this I reared her tender

tender years? was it for so shameful an end as this, that I used to boast all around the county of my having reared the most accomplished beauty it had ever possessed?—Ah! well-a-day, how cruelly are all my flattering hopes disappointed. I had never imagined for her less than being happy in wedlock with some noble Peer of the realm."

" Such hopes," interrupted Isabella, have now no longer any room. I am doomed to shame, and to misery, I fear, in consequence. All the mishaps which adversity can throw on my afflicted head, I could bear, sooner than the shock of seeing papa or mamma, when made acquainted with my unguarded folly, my unpardonable frailty. Save me from that dreaded encounter; and, Fortune, I can stand the mark of all your arrows. Is all their unbounded

bounded goodness, their lavish parental fondness to me, their darling, their favourite, their now comfort, and promised prop for their declining years, to be paid by disappointment, sorrow, and infamy. Break, fond, foolish heart, betrayer of my honour, and let me not continue a wretched prey to such excruciating thoughts."

" Be comforted," my dear, said nurse, coming up to her.—" Talk of comfort to the winds and stormy seas ;" retorted Isabella angrily, " but never talk to me of comfort; no, that is a now estranged guest, which never more will seek for residence in my tumultuous bosom. A heart so harrassed with grief as mine, must never think of comfort. No, henceforward comfort's gloomy antagonist, black despair, is to exercise full empire over me.

I am

I am now his devoted vassal. No more the sun's all-clearing light is to beam any ray of pleasing sensation on my distracted soul; determined to find no refuge, but in the darksome horrors of sorrow feeding night. — The light of day I henceforward shall detest, as contributing to make me see objects that will never fail to remind me of my shame."

While Isabella was thus giving vent to her grief, a servant (friend to nurse) came from her father's house, to inform them both, that, by the indiscreet babbling of Lord F—, the shocking account of his having debauched Isabella, with the privity of nurse, had reached the ears of her father and mother, who, not able to hear such a disgrace in the face of many neighbours, to whom they had occasionally

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behaved with rather too much haughtiness, founded on their too flattering hopes of being raised to a still higher rank of condition, by some very advantageous match with Isabella; — but that now being all over, they were resolved to retire to a little lodge they had in Lincolnshire, and to let Miss and nurse do for themselves as well as they could; they, on their side, being determined never to see either of them more; and that they were at that very hour set off.

This added new fuel to the consuming grief of nurse and Isabella; who, however, after a thorough discharge of their anguish, consulted together what were best to do. — Nurse observed she would rather suffer death than live, or be seen any more in the neighbourhood, exposed to the railing

railing taunts of every officious meddler, that should not fail to cry, "Shame come to nurse, for having been the ready, the convenient tool of Isabella's disgrace; too young to have had any experience of her own, to guard her against the wicked schemes of seductive man, joined to the artful assistance of her nurse, long practised and hackneyed in the ways of vice. — No doubt she has had a good premium from Lord F—, for the wicked jobb; a murrain seize the old cockatrice. — She deserves to be tied to a cart's tail, and whipt through all the neighbouring parishes, as an example to deter other nurses from being accessory to the ruin of those virgins, whose honours they ought to protect; as well as to serve for a warning to parents to be cautious how they let their children,

G 2                   daughters

daughters especially, be too intimate or familiar with any of the servile tribe."

Isabella joined in reflections equally bitter: " If you are so affected, nurse, by my disaster, judge what must be my suffering ; how violent the torturing apprehensions that swell my breast, and rend my heart ! I, that was once throughout in the neighbourhood the admiration ; to be now the scorn of all ! How will all the deformed chaste ones, who hated me for my uncommon beauty, now triumph in my shame ! How will every prude be eloquent on my disgrace ! And what is still more afflicting, to be liable to the rude, unmannered and brutal addresses among those of the other sex, who used before to approach me but in trembling, and with

with sentiments so far surpassing admiration, as to border even upon adoration? But, alas, how is their idol fallen! Every smothered titter, every loud laugh, as I pass along, I shall imagine to be directed at me. To live in such a scene of misery, is beyond all bearing.—Therefore my resolution is taken to set off in the coach that passes by here, ere the dawn of day, for London; there try to find my destroyer, and see what power my presence may have upon him, to recall him, from infidelity, to that constancy he had sworn to me in the most solemn manner, previous to his illusive marriage."

"Heaven be praised," quoth nurse, that of yourself you have resolved upon the very step I was going to advise you to take.] There will be no

for us here." — " No abiding for us, indeed," rejoined Isabella, and gave directions to the servant, to whom she gave her keys, to go and convey, in a private manner, all her cloaths, rings, watch, &c. from her apartment, but to touch nothing that did not belong to her; all which articles she knew, and could be relied upon as Isabella's trusty maid, recommended to her by nurse, to whom she was related.

While the servant-maid went to execute with as much dispatch and privacy as possible the orders given to her by her young mistress, nurse set about packing up her all for the intended journey. — The servant soon returned with her young mistress's things; in the bringing of which the old trusty house-keeper assisted, with an intent of bidding adieu to nurse, and

and to young Miss, as well as to take the key, and lock up nurse's house, or rather little lodge, which she was going to quit.

About the same time the coachman, who had brought the letter from Lord F—, stopped at the door, and alighted, having no passengers in his coach, to ask if they had any letter or packet to send up to London, he being bound thither?

They answered, No.—But if he had room in his coach for three (the servant-maid having declared to Isabella, that she would go along with her) there were so many passengers there ready to set off with him.

The coachman was overjoyed at the proposal, and they not less so at the vacancy ; by which means they should probably be for a great part, if not

all the way, by themselves. The coachman helped to dispatch them, by lending a hand to pack up the several parcels of nurse and Miss, and to stow them in a place of safety.

That done, after a short breakfast (for which Isabella had but very little appetite) and leave taken of the house-keeper, who made as many presents as she could spare to her afflicted young mistress, they mounted into the coach, tears falling plentifully from every eye. The house-keeper waved with her hand a last adieu, wishing heaven would take them under its care.

The others reflected, as the coachman drove off, how lucky the carriage's coming was! and moreover, how fortunate too it was, that before daylight they should be driven far away from the busily-spread knowledge of Isabella's

Isabella's disgrace, and the probability of her meeting with any affrontful sneers, or scowling looks in consequence; encounters which now Isabella declared she dreaded much more than death. " But that, thank God, bad as her deplorable situation was, it was, however, some alleviation (though small indeed) that she should be now removed far from the reproachful frowns of sorely aggrieved, and disappointed parents, through the folly and indiscretion of their darling child; which calamity, to have caused in base return for the indulgent tenderness of too kind parents, ought, to a child that is not devoid of feeling, be a cause of never-dying anguish; a rack by day, a torture by night." Here Isabella stopped, un-

able to utter a word, by an immediate burst of sighs and tears.

Nurse, after having sympathized for a few minutes, thus endeavoured to sooth her afflictions. " My dear child, who knows what Fortune may yet have in store for you. However unfortunate this first mishap, in so early a part of your life ; yet divine Providence, whose ways we are taught by our holy religion to revere, as impenetrable to the weak understanding of mortals, may, through disappointment, so grievous at the present, mean to lead you thereby to greater happiness hereafter, and more than could, through any other means, be hoped to happen. Heaven often turns the intended malice of us sinful beings, to the unexpected advantage of those whose injury was aimed at. Our get-  
ting

ting this coach so conveniently promises rather good than evil."

To all nurse's consoling of this sort, and the old common place cant, Isabella made no reply, being entirely absorbed in affliction. Now and then a sigh escaped, accompanied with a disconsolate look of expostulation to heaven, on her hard and unmerited (as she thought) disgrace.

Nurse, on perceiving Isabella continue so inattentive to her, so woe-be-gone, and so totally immersed in sorrow, was going to resume her disagreeable strain of comforting to Isabella, when the coachman cried aloud to them, "Passengers in the coach, hide as soon as you can whatever things you may have of value, for I perceive driving towards us across the heath, upon which we are now

entered, some highwaymen ; and I perceive not one traveller near to give any assistance, should they attack us."

The nurse and Isabella's maid screamed at hearing the unwelcome tidings. As for the ruined fair, she shewed not the least emotion thereat, any severe blow of fortune now being matter of mere indifference to her ; for, were a choice left to her corroding thoughts, immediate death, as a friendly release from pain, would appear far more eligible than to drag on a life of infamy.

Their ears were soon informed of an hostile intent, by these menacing sounds to the coachman : " Do you hear, you scoundrel, immediately stop your horses, or I will blow your brains out ! " At which terrifying declaration

tion (as there is no trifling with the gentlemen of the road, the nature of their business being fire-eyed expedition, and allows of no parlying, or delay) the coachman pulled in his horses, and stopped.—Then the question was put to him, how many passengers he had? of what age and sex? He answered, “ All women, one old, two young.”

“ Then alight,” said one of the fellows to the coachman, “ open the door of your vehicle, and bid them turn out, that we may examine their persons and purses, and see if either be worth our taking any cognisance of. Since your passengers are but women, we have nothing to fear, and may tumble them about as we please?”

At the coachman’s bidding, nurse and the servant descended from the coach,

coach, and were labouring to get Isabella down, unable to assist herself from the combined causes of her weakness, affliction, and this additional terror."

" By heavens!" (quoth one of the ruffians) " here is a perfect beauty, which, I suppose, this elderly madam here, in the quality of a town-procureress, and a circuiting bawd, has picked up somewhere in the country, to bring up to the London-market. Is it not so, thou Beldam? At which severe charge (she being entirely innocent of any such bad design) nurse only shook her head, but made no manner of reply.

" What! struck dumb, at being reproached with the infamous traffic you make of young maiden chastity; but now you are fallen into the hands of equity,

equity, itinerant ! and must pay dearly for your iniquitous courses. For though you, and those of your sister-hood, too often escape unpunished, through stipulated bribes to the trading retailers of justice in and about London, you shall not escape unmolested by us to the last farthing you have: so quick, no delay, turn out your purse of fornication profits."

" Lord ! gentlemen, you quite mistake the matter; I am no such person as you think me to be ; I a bawd ! I sell young maidens chastity ? No, no, far have ever been all such wicked thoughts, such evil doings, from my head and heart. I assure you, gentlemen, upon the word of a virtuous woman, that I am nothing more, and nothing less, than nurse to that young lady, whom I am now accompanying to

to London, in order to seek out there a false-hearted lover, who has deceived her with a sham marriage, and has now left her with child, a shame to herself and friends ; for which, shame fall upon the wicked varlet's head.

“ Damn your cant,” replied the highwayman “ do you think we are to be put off, and humbugged in this manner, by your cock-and-a-bull story. Come, come, turn out the pockets, let me see what cash you have got about you : some you must have, as there is no travelling to London without.”

While one searched nurse, another accosted the terrified Isabella, with a brutal declaration of indulging his lustful desires with her, kindled by the sight of such transcendant beauty.

“ Come,

" Come, come, my pretty maid, since your sweet features have been brushed by the beard of a man, and that you bear a swelling proof, you are no longer a stranger to the difference of sexes; be kind and complying to a knight of the road, and, as neither the time, nor his profession, will allow him to be long in his courtship, let him, for a few blissful moments, fill up the place of your false lover."

Just on the instant that he was going to be rude to her, and that his companion (after riffling nurse's pocket, for the vexation of finding nothing therein; what cash and valuables they had, as the coachman advised, being hid in the coach) had given her a violent blow with the butt-end of his whip, which felled her to the ground, a third person of their party, at some distance,

tance, on the watch, to give an alarm at the approach of any danger; now posted on a strong gallop towards them, bidding to mount immediately, and make the best of their way; for that a number of horsemen, pistols to their saddles, and others, whom he took to be servants, with flung blunderbusses, were coming that road in full speed. Upon this warning they forsook their prey, and sprang each on his horse; struck deep with their spurs, and as fast as their beasts could lay legs to the ground, bore away across the heath, in paths deviating from the high-road.

The timely appearance of those travellers (a nobleman and his retinue going to a horse-race at the other side of the heath, then known to be infested with a new gang of robbers on the occasion of said race, which also was

was the motive of their being armed, both in a view of defence, if surprised by the banditti, and to pursue, if they should get sight of them) was a most fortunate event for nurse and Isabella. The latter it saved from a brutal act of defilement, the former from a continuance of ill treatment, by repeated blows, till such time as she should own where was concealed the little treasure and valuables belonging to their company ; for on nurse he looked as the purse-bearer.

One of the servants was dispatched to know from the coachman (while his master and attendants reconnoitered what course the escapers took) if the three horsemen who rode off so violently from the coach at their appearance, were the robbers so much talked off at that time, and whose dreaded characters

characters had deterred many from going to the horse-race meeting ?

Word being brought back in the affirmative, his Lordship with his attendants, all specially mounted for that purpose, set out in warm and vigorous pursuit of the banditti, who in about ten minutes (their horses being slower of foot than those of their pursuers) were come up with (as the coachman declared, he having mounted on the top of his coach for a better view) and were made prisoners : Which, from that moment, as fast as the news could be spread, relieved all the neighbouring country from the terrors they had laboured under on account of those vagrants.

Nurse thanked God that the scoundrel, who had given her so unmerciful a blow on the head, was taken ;  
and

and hoped that speedy justice would bring condign punishment on him ; and make him die swinging in the air for his having so barbarously struck her to the earth. Isabella's maid vented her departing fears of ill usage from the highwayman, as well as her particular resentment to the ruffian, who meant nothing less than ravishing her mistress in sundry execrations. The coachman threw in remarks usual to those of his cast, to wit : " The sparks are taken ; they will soon be put into a stronger house than their fathers built ; who loves danger, will perish thereby. The pitcher that is carried often to the well, is broken at last. Evil doings bring to a shameful end," and so on.

It is needless to trouble the reader with a minute detail of Isabella, nurse, and servant-

servant-maid's getting into the coach, or to tell what refreshments they called for at the inns where the coach stopt in its way to London : which capital they reached that night, and very glad they were got to their journey's end.—

They lay at the Blue Bell in Holbourn that night ; next morning at breakfast (as was in the night agreed upon by Isabella and nurse) the landlady was called up, whom the nurse thus addressed : “ I want to intreat a favour of you.” The landlady was a little stunned at nurse's begging tone of voice, lest the favour should be to ask credit for what they had, or to borrow money on some pretext, as going into the city to get money for a note (stratagems innholders are often taken in by) ; and therefore answered coldly ; “ If

“ the

favour be a reasonable one, and within my power, as well as convenience to grant, it is very like I may."

To which nurse, from her inexperience of fraud, and total unacquaintance with the schemes of a London-life, not entering into the landlady's sense, or guessing the cause of distant shiness to her request, thus ingeniously replied: " Why, to be sure, mistress, it is natural to be cautious how one promises any thing to strangers, and people unknown, as we are to you ; for as the old saying is, We should eat a bushel of salt with folks before we venture to trust them with any thing of value. But, however, that is not the case at present. The favour we want to beg of you is, to procure us among your acquaintance

quaintance a decent lodging for this young lady, her maid, and me, and upon reasonable terms."

The landlady then looked successively, and earnestly in each of their countenances, and, with a half sneer, said, mistaking nurse for a bawd (on account of Isabella's pregnancy) " I am sure, madam, ( to nurse ) one of your years, and practice in the world, cannot be at a loss to know where to get suitable lodgings for you and your company. Besides, it is a matter quite out of my way to be of any service to you. You must also know, that it is not every house will be glad to take in, without a character, such lodgers as you appear to be. But should I be mistaken in my opinion, I most humbly ask your pardon ; for really honest folks, and other

other folks look now-a-days so alike, that there is no telling who is this, or who is that person.

The landlady's meaning being now urged in a plainer manner than before, nurse, notwithstanding her habitual dulness, began to see as it were through a cloud, what such indirect expressions tended to ; and therefore, with a kind of warmth, retorted, " I should be glad to learn what kind of folks you take us to be — for I would have you to know — "

" O madam," interrupted sneeringly the hostess, " this is the usual strain with most of the travelling, ay, and of trafficking ladies too, the young as well as the old, of whom we have an opportunity to see such a variety brought hither in the stage-coaches that inn here. Therefore, to give my

notion of things, you are the sedate matron who is to launch yon young lady (that, by her pregnancy, I see, is already initiated in the sinful trade of the flesh) on this great ocean of iniquity, London."—

You are a filthy woman, quoth nurse. (Poor Isabella was stung to the quick at so keen a reproach) I will stay no longer in your vile house. Order a hackney-coach; and let us know how much we are in your debt, that we may discharge it immediately; which was accordingly done: and nurse calling to mind an old fellow-servant and relation of her's, of whom she had often heard mention, and to live too in a decent way, and keep a house for lodgers, in one of the streets adjoining Berkley-square; thither (having

ing packed up all their parcels) she bid the coachman to drive.

For brevity sake, we shall pass over the joyous greeting of nurse and her old fellow-servant and kinswoman at meeting ; as well as the form of introducing and presenting miss, with an affecting narration of what had befallen to her, through the perfidy of that base monster Lord F—. Let us suppose them got into a lodging fully to their liking.

Nurse's friend, who procured the lodgings, was, by Isabella's request, detained to sup with them, and prayed, on departing, not only to return to them next morning, but as often as she could ; which would be of the greatest service to them, considering that they were quite strangers in this immense city. This she pro-

mised faithfully, and, as will hereafter appear, more than kept her word.

Some time after supper, and her having bid good night to her new acquaintance, Isabella observed to nurse, how lucky the recalling of her to mind was ; out of what a pack of troubles it took them ; because, from the unprovoked impertinence of the landlady at the inn, there was room to fear, that three strange-looking helpless women from the country, without any person knowing in the ways of the town, to direct or recommend them, must meet with many rubs of such disagreeable treatment, while they should enquire for lodgings ; and no doubt be refused in a scoffing manner at most places : except at those where it would neither be prudent nor decent to abide.

Blessings

Blessings on you, sweet injured lambkin, for taking things in so good a light, and finding my poor services turn out useful. It was indeed lucky, that I found out this old fellow-servant and kinswoman. I hope from this event, that some unexpected stroke of good fortune will happen in our behalf. But a sudden stop was put to the moralizing vein into which nurse was got, by Isabella's desiring to go to rest, she not having slept with any continuance since her setting out from the country. An inn was no place for quiet slumber, or for enjoying the balm of uninterrupted repose; which, to be relished, requires a head and heart in a more tranquil and placid state, than were those of this unfortunate young lady.

By mutual agreement, to bed they went. In the morning betimes, Isabella was awakened, or rather alarmed out of her sleep, by a deep-fetched groan from nurse : at which she sprang from bed, huddled on her deshabille as fast as she could, and called to the maid to get up immediately, that whatever succour nurse might stand in need of, should be immediately administered.

With the assistance of the maid, Isabella opened the window-shutters, then ran to the bed where nurse lay ; drew the curtain in order to see, and to question her about her ailment : when, O woful sight ! she beheld her in a most deplorable situation ; her head all swoln, her eyes scarce visible, and what little could be seen all blood-shot. She struggled to speak, but could

could not ; she frequently made efforts with her hand to point to that part on which she had been struck by the highwayman.

Isabella, fearing nurse's life to be in danger (as it really was) dispatched the maid to nurse's kinswoman, desiring that she might come with all speed, and bring a doctor, surgeon, or apothecary, along with her, as the pressing danger allowed of no delay : which request was expeditiously complied with ; for ere long, the maid and Mrs. Gripefast (the name by marriage of nurse's kinswoman, married since she came to London to a Marshalsea-court officer) brought with them one of those medicinal absurdities, so frequently to be met with in and about this great city ; equivocal beings, who serve occasionally for doctor,

surgeon, apothecary, or man-midwife. He with solemn looks perused the features of the speechless patient ; then gravely felt her pulse, and judiciously concluded (as every body present saw) that she was in a dangerous way.

He then, with an awkward address of civility (struck with the blaze of Isabella's charms) thus enquired : " Pray, sweet and beautiful young lady, be so condescending (there is reason to expect it from so elegant a form) as to instruct me so far as you can guess, conjecture, or opine, what may be the distant motive, or immediate cause, of this unfortunate poor gentlewoman's (who, from not speaking, it is reasonable to conclude has lost the use of her tongue) so frequently attempting to raise her hand to a particular part of her head ; which would seem

seem to notify as if there, or there-about in her head, lurked, lay concealed, or was latently hitched, the primary grievance she would complain of." Having thus elegantly (as he imagined) expressed himself, and growing still more and more enamoured with Isabella's beauty, he made her a low and studied bow, to display a sufficient proof of his good breeding, shaking devoutly towards her the curled honours of his powdered periwig.

Isabella, in a plain, ingenuous, and concise manner, related to Mr. Prolixity (the any-thingarian in physic) the adventure of the highway-men, and the violent blow on the head which nurse had received from one of them.

" Thank you, sweet lady," replied the orator, " that violent blow on the

head is the undoubted cause of all the anguish your poor friend now labours under ; for the violence of that blow, by bruising, and beating in the bones of the skull, hath separated, torn, divided, and lacerated, the outward teguments of the brain, totally destroyed the pericranium, and, by its farther impression, has caused a solution, rupture, or disunion of the blood-vessels ; whence the extravasated humours, which had before been in them contained, now rush abroad, overflow, whelm, and deluge, all parts their preternatural gushing can either infinuate into, or force an inroad on.

But in order to divert this vital torrent from extinguishing vitality itself, that is, life ; I will first proceed, by cupping the patient on the back of the head, in order to draw off that way

way some of the enemy's forces, and hinder its rapid progress against the existence of this poor gentlewoman. She now becomes precious to me; since I have perceived that a young lady, possessed of such infinite excellence, full of all perfection as you appear endowed with so tenderly, and so affectionately feel for her unhappy situation."

All this laboured jargon was to inspire Isabella with a liking for his person. But her thoughts were otherwise occupied, with the grievous apprehension of the terrible plight she must be in, when abandoned to herself in a strange place, should she lose nurse.

While Doctor (doctor they called him) Prolixity was preparing his arm in a very formal manner to perform the operation, Mrs. Gripefast (who,

it seems, used to solace herself in private parties, a tender *tete-a-tete* with the doctor, and make no scruple even to cuckold a bailiff) drew Isabella aside, and observed to her, " This doctor, who takes care of me, my husband, and whatever patients I can recommend to him, is admired by all as a well-spoken gentleman. I'll warrant it now, you have never before heard any body speak like him."— " Never, indeed," answered Isabella, with a smile of forced complaisance, covering her inward contempt, as she did not care to dissent from, or to enter into a debate with an ignorant woman, when matters of more importance, and the life of a very dear friend, was in danger.

" I am glad to find," quoth mother Gripest, dropping a grotesque curtzy,  
" that

" that you and I agree about the doctor ; I assure you, he is a sweet man, if you knew but all."

By this time the doctor having got his cupping instruments ready, he bid the maid to hold the candle, and to be careful in observing what she was about. He next assumed a more courteous composure of features ; addressing himself to Dame Gripefast and Isabella, " Ladies, I entreat you will be so kind, by placing yourselves, one on each side of this your mutual friend and acquaintance, as to support her body in a proper attitude, while I execute for her immediate good what my art prescribes in such threatening and perilous circumstances."

The maid held the candle, and they on each side upheld nurse as the doctor had directed. But just in the

very

very moment that he was going to perform the operation, the patient sprang from between her assistants, by means of a most convulsive effort; fell back on the bed, groaned most piteously; directed, as well as she could, a farewell look to Isabella, and expired.—

Dame Gripefast, with loud lamentations, seemed to express the greatest grief for the loss of her old acquaintance, fellow-servant and kinswoman; while Isabella, unable to support so unexpected a shock, fainted into the arms of her maid, who was assisted in supporting her by Dr. Prolixity.

The landlady of the house, alarmed by the loud noise of lamentation, ran up stairs to enquire the matter, and whether it were of a nature to demand the calling of constable? But she soon

soon discovering the corpse on the bed, learned the cause of the outcry, and, as prudence directed, enquired who should be at the expence of interring the deceased. For whose departure she affected much concern, believing the dead person to have been, for any thing she could say to the contrary, a very good woman. But that bewailing was of no avail, since we were all born to die one time or other: earth to earth, dust to dust ; it is what we must all come to.

Gripefast bid her to hold her tongue, and to be under no uneasiness, either in regard to the funeral expence, or the payment of the lodging ; because all that she would take upon herself, and be answerable for. The landlady made easy about the main point, and being quite satisfied in her security,

went

went down, and troubled her head no more about them or their affairs.

The worked-up storm of Gripefast's affliction (as nothing violent can be of long duration) subsiding by degrees, she rung the bell ; upon which the landlady ran up again ; of whom she desired the favour of a dram, if any she had. The landlady said she would go down stairs, and send her up instantly some of the right sort, the true, the genuine Irish Usquebaugh ; which when brought to Gripefast, she tossed off without delay, in order to convey immediate comfort to her anguished heart.

The spirituous libation which had been devoutly swallowed by this disguised harpy, no sooner began to diffuse a pleasing warmth and exhilarating glow through her heart, midriff, nerves,

nerves, &c. than she attempted to administer comfort to Isabella, now reviving from her swoon.—“ My dear young lady, give not too much indulgence to this grief, that so justly preys upon you ; I am as sensible as any body, nay, as yourself can possibly be, how trusty a servant, how faithful a companion, and how valuable a friend you have lost in my deceased kinswoman.—But be comforted ; notwithstanding so heavy a mischance, I'll endeavour, by my attention to, and tenderness of you, to deserve my succeeding to her place in your esteem and confidence.

My first advice is, that you quit this doleful room, now only fit to feed your sorrow by the view of nurse's corpse, until such time as it shall be interred. Come then with me, and for

for a few days take up your residence at my house. I shall give proper orders to an undertaker of my acquaintance for her being buried in a decent manner. Your maid may stay here to take care of the parcels that belong to nurse, now become your's, as well as of your own."

Isabella was in so weakly a condition, as to be able neither to pay any great attention, nor to refuse the offer. Whereupon Gripefast called out on the stair-head to the landlady's maid, to go and call a coach ; which being come, the now-plotting Mrs. Gripefast, and the over-obliging Doctor, prevailed on Isabella to go with them. The nauseously complimenting, and fulsomely ceremonial Prig of Hippocrates had here an opportunity presented to him of displaying, to its utmost

most

most extent, his acquired cleverness at conducting a lady down stairs, and out of a house into a coach ; as well as the counter-part of such fashionable duty on their coming to Mrs. Gripefast's dwelling.

All the neighbouring women laughed at seeing Prolixity come out of the same coach with mother Gripefast, and with their fingers they marked the symbol of cuckoldom ; intimating the too great familiarity suspected to subsist between the Bailiff's wife, and her attendant Doctor.

But on every face, at sight of the beauteous Isabella handed into the same detested house, appeared a generous sorrow ; the folks concluding her to be some unhappy young lady under arrest to the husband, and brought

brought in that mild and gentle way, through the virtue of civility-money.

The Doctor, on one hand, by all manner of studied officiousness, and Mrs. Gripefast on the other, with a world of affected kindness, seemed to be occupied with no other thought, than of alleviating the pangs which Isabella endured.

The nurse was buried as soon as possible by Gripefast's commands. All the goods (from the lodging which she discharged) she had conveyed to her house along with Isabella's maid.

But, on account of the young lady's unabating sorrow for nurse, and her health thereby impaired, she miscarried; which occasion the now violently enamoured Doctor seized on to advise Mrs. Gripefast to procure a country lodging, as the close air, as well as  
hurry

hurry of her house, were quite against her recovering. The fly-one's view in this advice, was to have an opportunity of visiting Isabella alone, freed from the disagreeable incumbrance of Gripefast's presence ; whom he had long heartily detested, and never declared, or would proceed to any act of fondness in her insatiable embraces ; but when his cash was low ; at such times he was sure of receiving relief by drawing upon her.

The doctor's Dulcinea, Gripefast, was not averse to the advice given by her paramour, in order to forward the recovery of Isabella to health, and to her former bloom. Because, in the dark counsel of her wicked bosom, she had tacitly resolved to take advantage of Isabella's being now left friendless, by the death of nurse, as well as of her

her absolute inexperience of life, and unacquaintance in London, to make considerable sums, by trafficking her uncommon stock of female charms.

Thus the two wicked conspirators against Isabella's virtue, for different ends, (that of each sinner being kept strictly a secret from the other) agreed on a lodging to be taken for Isabella and her maid, till such time as she should recover, at a certain distance from London, for the sake of the air, and whither the expence of carriage should be moderate.

None of the villages in the neighbourhood of this metropolis seemed to answer the proposed private ends of each, so well as Turnham Green: it being but of a moderate distance, about five miles, with the advantage of coaches plying thither on every hour of

of the day almost, and at the very reasonable charge of one shilling per place.

Mrs. Gripefast seriously considering, that the sooner Isabella should be in a state of being exhibited, the sooner money would be made of her beauty ; she therefore lost no time to hire, for a month or two, one of those little tenements, with an enclosed garden adjoining, which are to be seen about Turnham Green ; and that for many generations have been inhabited by no other tenants than by those denominated by the dealers in elegant phraseology, the obliging priestesses of Venus.

Thither Isabella and her maid were conveyed, with such articles only, of either her own or of nurse's things, as the frugal Gripefast thought proper

to send with them in one of the Turnham Green stages. Whither, that they, neither maid nor mistress, might not have an opportunity of learning any thing, or of being put upon their guard against the bad company they were in — both the doctor, and the new governante Gripefast, accompanied them, hiring a coach for themselves, exclusively of any other passengers.

They had sent before them on foot, with the keys, an old mishapen hag, dependent on the bounty of Gripefast, to be ready to open the door, and receive them at their arrival, which happened soon after she had got there.

This veteran agent of iniquity they passed upon Isabella as mistress of the house, with whom she was to lodge until she should recover her health and grow better ; that she was to be advised by

by her in every thing, and not to stir any where without her, which might endanger her being lost, or exposed to other mischiefs, in a country where she was quite a stranger, and which abounded with so many wicked people.

This admonition over ; orders were sent to the Pack-horse to send them the readiest dinner which could be made up for three or four persons, with a bottle of Madeira wine, as the company was in a hurry to return to London.

Of the dinner when brought, Isabella could eat but little ; her appetite being quite blunted by the series of distress which she had undergone. Her seemingly good-natured, kind and disinterested friends, after the hour of tea-drinking, took leave of Isabella,

I recom-

recommending her to the imposed mistress of the house, that she would be careful that nothing should be wanted to make the young lady's time pass away as agreeably as possible, and the present circumstances would allow.

The virtuous Mrs. Looksharp promised the chaste Mrs. Gripefast, that no care should be wanting on her side to render the young Lady's condition comfortable. Mrs. Gripefast, on stepping into the coach on her return to town, said she would be careful to send fresh provisions of all kinds every day by one of the Turnham Green stages ; and added, that she, and the Doctor her good friend, would as frequently, as their respective business should allow, call and visit them.

These two contrivers of mischief, on their way to town (there being company

company in the coach with them, which hindered their talking on Isabella's account) separately flattered their wicked imaginations with the vicious purposes to which they had tacitly devoted her. Gripfast, to make considerably by the prostitution of her person, and by repeatedly selling her as a maiden-head to the wealthy poachers for your young female virginity ; of which monsters there is such a prowling number in and about London, who stick at no price, that it is almost a miracle when any poor girl and pretty, can reach fifteen without having been debauched : so assiduous too is the industry of the old beldam-bawds of the sex, as well as the younger cast-off mistresses, as soon as commenced procurresses. How difficult then, consider-

ing the many dangers that environ, is it for young frailty to escape ?

The Doctor's flattering imagery was; how happy he should be in the sole and unrivalled enjoyment of the beautiful Isabella, to whom he was determined to pay many private, unknown visits, besides those known to Gripefast, whose jealousy might be alarmed by such assiduity ; and the disagreeable consequence to him would be her immediate removing Isabella to some other place, which would be kept a secret from him. To carry his point in the snuggest manner, he determined to make Looksharp a fast friend, to assist him in the completion of his amour, by the intermediation of that ever-prevailing art, bribing well.

The

The new inhabitants of the little lodge at Turnham Green were for a while occupied in arranging affairs in their different chambers; after which their curiosity was engaged some minutes in beholding the prodigious number of carriages (an extraordinary sight to them) driving to and fro in that great and very frequented thorough-fare.

Mrs. Looksharp invited Isabella to take a turn or two in the garden with her, for the sake of more air, and there to amuse themselves till after sun-set. That crafty woman let escape no opportunity of sliding in compliments on Isabella's charms. She took every method of awakening whatever latent sparks of female pride might remain unextinguished in her bosom, and especially that so very predominant

vanity in all, even in the most virtuous of the tender sex, to see the other solicit, entreat, pray, kneel down to, and pay suppliant adoration to them.

"Without compliment, Miss," said she (as they sat in the summer-house together) "your beauty surpasses any I have ever seen; and, I assure you, I have seen many a celebrated toast in my time. Lady C——y in my judgment, nor the Duchess her sister, nor that fuller-blown belle Mrs. P—, nor any, indeed, that I can at present recollect, are to be compared with you. What powerful influence you may have, if you please, to exert your charms, and make a proper use of what nature has so profusely lavished on you! There is not a Lord in the realm but would think himself happy in being permitted the honour of

even

even kissing your lilly-white hands, which are more elegantly streaked with azure veins, than any these eyes of mine have ever gazed on before: so exquisitely fine they are, I myself, all woman as I am, cannot help yielding to a desire of kissing them."

Looksharp for a few moments kissed alternately Isabella's hands, which extorted a smile from her: "Ay, ay, you have reason to smile, said Looksharp, you that are endowed with such various temptations, to draw the men by hundreds after you, your constant votaries, your humble slaves, whose highest ambition will be to boast the honour of wearing your chains. If even a woman cannot behold you without being somewhat enraptured, what chance have the men to escape from ranking as your subjects? No, no,

they will rather court such thraldom."

As there is no woman, or even man, however sunk in grief, to whose ears the voice of flattery does not sound pleasing, and through them find a passage to the heart ; so it fared with Isabella, now emerging from the gloom of despair, and beginning to feel the dawning rays of hope, of some accidental good that should befall her, but of which she could form no fixed idea.

She supped that night more cheerful, went to-bed in better spirits than she had done since her disaster. Next morning at her uprising she was hailed by the amorous declaration of Prolixity, who had not slept all the night before, still revolving in his mind the charms of Isabella, and in preparing a fine speech for her.

His

His florid nonsense she briskly rallied, and wormed out of him the character of Mrs. Gripefast, and what her views might be upon her.—The surgeon-doctor was obliged to return to town, in order to visit a patient about noon. After his departure, Isabella made serious reflections on the unfortunate situation she was in, and began to meditate an escape, if practicable.

In the afternoon Mrs. Gripefast came to pay Isabella a visit, and was quite transported at seeing so great a change in her for the better. She complimented her upon her reviving beauty, and said there was no time to be lost, to employ it to the best advantage. At which observation Isabella was startled. Gripefast replied,

“ Ay, that will do, Miss, those af-

I 5. fected

fected airs of squeamishness, as seemingly maiden alarms, are the best recommendation to a handsome face. It is amazing, how your habitual lechers exult at the notion of getting a maiden-head."

Here Gripefast chucked Isabella under the chin, as much as to say, Come, girl, hold up your head, there is money bid for you. The young lady looked grave, declaring she understood not what she meant. "What I mean is this, and what you must faithfully concur in, or else be miserable, is to act in an obliging, and (in every article) a complying manner, with every visitor I shall bring hither. If not, you shall dearly repent it. For know, it is in my power to put you in gaol, and my husband is an officer. So mind, and do as I bid you. To-morrow

morrow I will send you out along with your own cloaths, a dress fit to equip the first woman in the land, that you may be seen in the afternoon, by a worthy gentleman, a good friend and old customer of mine; one who will prove very generous to us both, if you please him to his liking."

Isabella, from the dictates of prudence, made no absolute demur, dreading the consequence, but with a downcast silence appeared to acquiesce in the mandate of the menacing bawd; though, at the same time, her mind was entirely taken up in thinking how she might elope from her present enclosure, closely watched as she was by that second in mischief, Mrs. Looksharp, who was then beckoned to by mother Gripefast. They retired to another room, and after some con-

versation, the chief engineer of female prostitution set out for London.

Isabella, the better to carry into execution the scheme she had tacitly resolved on, appeared unusually gay all that evening, to the no small satisfaction of her guardian, thence promising to herself high scenes of revelry, luxurious living, and presents, at the expence of the various paramours Gripefast should make successively happy in the supposed virgin-embraces of Isabella ; each debauchéé to be mulcted the price of a maiden-head, and so young, so innocently looking, and so beautiful a creature too. — “Here “will be rare doings,” said she to herself.

Isabella in the night-time communicated to her maid, who lay in a closet adjoining

adjoining to her chamber, her sense of the danger. She ordered in consequence, that in the morning, before Looksharp should rise, who, like all those habituated in the vicious trade of bawding, loved to lie long a bed, to steal out softly, go over to the Pack-horse (which they could descry from their lodge) and take two places in one of the stages to town, which from their windows they saw frequently passing to and fro, and tell the coachman where to call when he should have got a number to make up his company.

Then Isabella, with the maid's assistance, packed up every thing belonging to herself; but left, with detestation, the tawdry dress brought to her by Gripefast, to serve as an allurement to prostitution.

All this time, Looksharp, unsuspecting of any stolen march by morning, and fast asleep, nor would have awaked till towards noon, if about eight o'clock she had not been alarmed by the coachman's calling for two passengers to go to town, according to the directions he had received from the maid; who, although a country girl, had executed the commission given to her by Isabella very faithfully.

Looksharp, who, on account of her being rouzed on a sudden out of her sleep, did not distinguish clearly the import of the coachman's words; but from the noise of the horses and wheels, imagined it was Gripefast, with some early customers come down to breakfast, and pay their morning-compliments to the secluded fair one under her guardianship.

Looksharp

Looksharp therefore hasted to give Isabella notice of her surmise, that she might prepare to be ready to see company, while she should go down and receive them at the door. But how great was her surprize to meet Isabella ready dressed, coming out of her room, and her servant returning from the coach, where she had been to give Isabella's parcels in care. " Hoity toity, what is the meaning of all this ?" quoth the alarmed megara ?

The meaning is, that we are going to London ; for I am resolved to abide no longer in so wicked an abode, and with such vicious people as you and your employers are. These words she pronounced with a steady countenance. As she was stepping forward, Looksharp, all hell in her bosom.

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bosom at the dreadful notion of her prey's eloping, was going to seize Isabella ; whereupon her maid, animated by the virtuous zeal of a faithful servant, gave Looksharp so happily applied a blow with her clenched fist on the temple, as felled her immediately.

While the miscreant lay stunned, they both ran off, pulled the street-door after them, and into the stage :— off drove the coachman, and was got to the east-side of Hammersmith ere the grovelling vixen recovered her senses. Her cries about Turnham-Green for the loss of two young women, a lady and her maid stolen away, were turned to laughter and scorn ; all the inhabitants there knowing the base purposes for which they were intended.

In

In their way to town, Isabella was taken particular notice of by a young nobleman in a dishabille, an unusual passenger in such a vehicle; but necessity obliges sometimes those of the highest rank to put up with whatever they can get.

As soon as the company alighted from the coach at the Park-Gate, in order to walk down Constitution-hill, Isabella with her maid did the same. Whereupon which Eugenio (so let us call him) her new enamorato bounded out after them. He offered to wait upon her. From the confusion his offer put her into, she neither refused nor accepted, and continued her way, making awkward excuses, he following, till they came to the gate of the Wilderness; which he opened for her. Then, instead of going

going directly forward, they went down the flanting path ; where, in the most polite and delicate manner, Eugenio thus addressed her.

“ Madam, who ever you be, your air, manner, and innocence, are so opposite to what I should imagine you to be, by the place you came from into the coach, that I am at a loss how to break my mind to you. Although you see me in this undress, you will find from me nothing but the tenderest usage, and such as suit the rank of a nobleman ; for I am the Earl of —, who have been out very early this morning, to be second to my intimate friend Sir —, to fight a duel with Lord F—, second son to the Duke of —, whom he my friend has mortally wounded. To him I have lent my post-chariot (which carried

carried us both out) to make off for some time."

Lord F— died in about an hour after; all which time he filled with the most vehement expressions of remorse for the injury he had done a young lady by a false marriage (as the late act of parliament makes it), and whom he frequently called his fair Isabella.

At hearing her own name from the mouth of a stranger, the poor young lady fainted away into the arms of her servant, deeply affected by the untimely end of her deceiver, all cruel as he was. The Earl enquired of the maid, what could be the cause of her swooning? who replied, " This, Sir, " is the very young lady." Here his Lordship's curiosity, tenderneſs, and complacency, were jointly engaged.

As

As soon as Isabella recovered, he asked where she lodged ? Being told, that as yet she had no lodging, he desired her to consider him as a man of honour, and he would convey her to a place of safety. Her situation was such, and the offer so polite, that she could not refuse giving her assent. He then conducted her back to the gate by which they had come into the park, there called for a coach, into which he went with Isabella and her maid, and bid the fellow to drive to the house of Mrs. —— in one of the new-built streets leading to Mary-le-bonne.

She was a sober and regular woman, a captain's widow, who by the pay she received as such, and letting out furnished lodgings, contrived to support herself and children in a decent manner.

manner. The Earl, from the friendship he had born to her husband, who was killed in one of the North American battles, recommended to her all the reputable lodgers of his acquaintance. This induced her to receive without hesitation or enquiry, Isabella and her maid. The cause of Isabella's grief the better to conceal, he said was for the loss of a near relation.—On his Lordship's recommendation the landlady remained quite satisfied. He bargained for the first floor; which when they had taken a view of, Isabella seated herself on a sopha, and fetching a deep sigh, cried, Unhappy Lord F—, base as you were to me, these tears flow for your disaster.

The Earl's good sense knowing, that an attempt to stop a torrent of grief,

grief, is the most certain way to encrease it; beckoned to Isabella's maid to step with him into a neighbouring room, and leave her for a time, to give a loose to her anguish, which is a kind of pleasing indulgence to the afflicted.

There, at the Earl's request, the maid recited to him every article of her mistress's adventure in so ingenuous and unvarnished a manner, as to carry the strongest conviction in every circumstance, until their coming into the Turnham-Green coach that morning.

The Earl was highly affected with so interesting a story, but did not as yet perceive how far his heart was engaged. He returned to the weeping fair one, and said as many comforting things as the present situation would allow her to hearken to,

The

The Earl, on departing, called the maid out of the room, asked how her mistress was in point of cash? To which her answer was, that she could not exactly tell; but apprehended that her stock was not great. He gave her a purse with fifty guineas; " See that nothing she likes be wanting while this lasts, and when near out, let me know." The maid promised she would. His Lordship departed.

The Earl's thoughts could run upon nothing but Isabella's beauty, innocence, youth, virtue, adventures, &c. He daily visited her, in hopes, by his generous indulgence, to relieve in every article (she might possibly wish for) to soften her by degrees into a consent of becoming his mistress. But her modest and politely repelling deport-  
ment

ment on every such attack, used to cover his Lordship (he being not hackneyed in the fashionable vices of the age) with confusion for having put to the blush so excellent a creature. He often blamed himself for the indecency of such solicitations.

Isabella's nice sense of honour proving absolutely unaffailable, the Earl's passion grew daily stronger and stronger, to that degree, that finally he proposed marrying in these terms.

“ Your history I know. You stand in  
 “ my eyes in a more exalted point of  
 “ merit, and far greater purity of  
 “ manners, than if no such intention,  
 “ as that vilely practised on you by  
 “ the ungenerous Lord F—, had never  
 “ happened. I look upon you as his  
 “ chaste and virtuous widow in the  
 “ strictest sense of honour ; and as such  
 “ propose

propose marrying you as such, as soon as the time marked out by the late act will allow, and by the rector of the parish in which you and I now live. In his church you shall be called next Sunday. Parson Chubb, the instrument of your being ensnared, has paid for his ignorance ; for having been recommended by Lord F— to be chaplain to a regiment abroad, in order for the better sending him out of the way of evidencing against his villainy, he was drowned in one of our transport-ships, carrying troops abroad, that foundered at sea. This Lord F— declared a few minutes before he expired.

Isabella (having first turned up her eyes to heaven, and sighed for poor Bull's watery end, who had meant no harm, and only sinned through igno-

K rance)

rance) thanked his Lordship for so generous and undeserved a proposal ; added, that she was of a family, whose alliance would prove no disgrace to his Lordship's ; and that, on her side, the study of her life should be, that his Lordship should have, never have any room to repent him, for having taken betrayed innocence, and distressed virtue, under his protection.

The marriage was accordingly performed ; and, at his Lordship's peculiar desire, Isabella's father and mother assisted : for to their retirement of sorrow for a lost child, they had been sent for, and thence brought to London in his Lordship's coach and six. The Earl had also insisted on the presence of his next relations, that his nuptials with Isabella might be celebrated in a most distinguished manner.

The

The joy of her parents on the happy occasion, by so much the greater, as so little expected, is inexpressible in words; therefore we leave it to the imaginations of our readers to paint to themselves, particularly those who can sympathetically feel the joy of parents on the recovery of a once dearly beloved, but alas, a long fallen, lost, and despairs-of child.

Some moral reflections, the result of this Lady's history, here obtrude themselves upon us, in regard to the special providence that superintends all human actions, to wit, 1st, The death of the nurse, which should be a warning to all servants, &c. however zealous they may be for the welfare of their employers, to be never over busy in disposing of their children's affections unknown to them. Secondly, Chubb's

being drowned at sea, ought to be a lasting caution to the clergy to inform themselves better of the laws of their country, and never, through ignorance thereof, be liable to effectuate the ruin of others, and draw infamy upon themselves. Thirdly, The untimely fall of Lord F—, whereby young libertines should be warned there is an all-seeing power that punishes in various shapes the crimes of betraying innocence, and deluding virtue, which in these degenerate days are decorated with the name of gallantry. Fourthly, Isabella's being snatched from the brink of infamy, and raised to the summit of fortune. — As on one hand this should be a lesson to parents, for one deception (though in this case productive of good) never to turn out a daughter; so on the other, to deceived

ceived virgins (pardonable to have been deluded once) to persevere in their former notions of virtue, notwithstanding what snares may be laid to entrap them, and what difficulties they may have to encounter with. The most commonly put in practice against any fallen nymph, or even still virtuous if beautiful, and poor, we shall now proceed to in a separate chapter; the history of Isabella having run out to an extraordinary length.

## C H A P. IV.

*The Rocks and Shelves a young fallen  
Beauty has to shun, as well as the  
Bait's and Lure she must avoid.*

**A**s to carry on the service of many branches in the trading part of society, there are people em-

ployed to go about the country in quest of customers, and known under the denomination of Riders ; the business of such itinerants, is to diffuse a knowledge of the different articles they are employed in the disposal of, and to receive commissions.—Another part of their function, is to learn who are the *good*, and who the *bad*, in the several cities, towns, &c. where they ply ; that is, who as a solvent person can be trusted, and who for being the *reverse*, is not to be dealt with. These are the meanings of *good* and *bad* in the mercantile sense.

So in a like manner, the sage matrons, vulgarly called bawds, in this great city, although softened sometimes into the more elegant appellation of Bagnio-keepers, in fact not a whit better than Brothel-Renters, as well

as the *Tally-women*, and all brokers in female charms, have their scouts of both sexes, not only in every parish and street of London, but constantly going circuit through all the country, cities, towns, &c. in quest of new faces for the London market.

Before we proceed any farther, it will not be amiss to give a short sketch of what is called a *Tally-woman*. This kind of female monster is commonly a superannuated harlot, passed service, and who has saved money in the business of prostitution, but being able to add no more to her stock by the unchaste practices of her hackneyed carcase, contrives to have young girls who have strayed from the paths of virtue in her power.

Poverty and Beauty are the two public funds such pests flourish by ; for a

young woman with these accomplishments, in a tally-woman's eye, is a little estate to her. Because the industrious Jezebel having always a ward-robe of taudry female apparel, bought second-hand, and at cheapest rate, with watch, and every other gewgaw decoration fit to deck out female vanity, she receives into her house the poor beauty with open arms, crying out, " Mercy on me, what a world this is, how unequally things are shared here, that so charming a lass as you should be in such mean attire ! But things shall soon be altered ; you shall live henceforward as well as I do. My dear, look on me as your second mother ; ay, and one that will prove better to you than the first, I assure you. — A plague on the cloaths you have on, I cannot bear to see you in

in them.—Here, *Mol* or *Bet* (calling her trusty servant) look at this young lady's size, and bring down from the wardrobe what dress you think will fit her shape, and suit her complexion best, for I intend to take her with me to the playhouse to night." — Then turning to her young prey, "Have you ever seen a play, my dear?" If she never had, the greater consequently is her desire of seeing one.

When tricked out and bedizened in the evening for the playhouse flesh-market, the green boxes, how her heart flutters with joy at seeing her adorned figure in the glass! what joy to be put into a chair, and seated among fine brilliant nymphs, all ready to fall a willing sacrifice to the first bidder!

Alas,

Alas, poor girl, she has now got on her gilded chains, from which she will find it extremely difficult to dis-embarrass herself. All the money got for her administering to the pleasure of others, is taken by the old beldam to keep for her. Should the young one, from seeing into the nature of her situation, or from hints given to her, that she is working for another, offer to become refractory, and threaten a separation of interest; then a large bill is brought against her for cloaths, jaunting, and a thousand articles; although at the time no per contra credit is allowed for the cash given by visitors, and said to be lodged in the bawd's hands as a treasure.

To cry out against the charge were in vain, the tally-woman's servants are all ready to swear to each article. If  
she

she threatens to go off, some scoundrel attorney in pay, hath always an action and officer ready to seize on and terrify the poor wretch into a farther compliance, to continue a drudge in vice for the sole emolument of her unrelenting tyrant. — Sometimes a poor girl thus miserably situated, and sick of her condition, is reduced to terms, by the menace of a robbery to be sworn against her, and the getting her hanged, or at least transported.

Many a fine wench has perished in such thraldom. There is no chance for one so circumstanced to get off, unless through the friendly and resolute assistance of some occasional gallant, who may be particularly smitten. By incidents of that kind many a scene of oppressive bawdry has been brought to light, and the perpetrators made to

meet with a condign punishment, as far as the laws (defective on that head) could reach.

From this picture, let all young girls, pretty or poor, whether debauched or not, be on their guard against all civilities offered to them, either in public walks, theatres, or other places of general entertainment, by matron-like appearances, whose dress and deportment seem an awkward resemblance of women of quality, much about their period of life.

Let them also beware of all the emissary pimping tribe, male or female, who want to scrape an acquaintance with them, and which, they swear, is entirely for their good, by protesting that they know Mr. —, or 'Squire such a one, a single gentleman, and of a very considerable

considerable fortune, who is quite enamoured ; that he begs only an interview with Miss, to declare his passion to her, which is on the most honourable terms.

If the so intreated goes, she is lost ; for to whatever place she is inviegled to drink tea, care is taken to put ingredients into it to kindle lustful commotions, as well as into the other liquors she may be prevailed on to drink a glass or two of ; when the chief engineers of blowing up her character, see by the sparkling of her eyes that the libation has worked the desired effect, then they retire, and leave her abandoned to the brutal attacks of the lecher, by whom they had been employed for the effectuating her seduction.

Should she resist, and not prove  
com-

complying, all cries for succour are to no purpose, for she is in a district never trodden by modest feet ; nay, should her resistance, through the vigour of youth, happen to baffle the eagerness of veteran and exhausted debauchees, then either the bawd or the pimp come hurrying to their pay-master's assistance, and tartly rebuke the poor struggling victim with words like these, " What a vixen it is—who could have imagined so much violence in so delicate a form ? in what a low lived vulgar manner must you have been educated, to prove so cross-tempered and peevish to a good natured gentleman, who means nothing but kindness to you ? Many a fine lady of our acquaintance would be glad of his offer, which you seem to disdain.—But do not imagine, Miss, that you shall indulge your own

own head-strong will here, or that so good a customer as Sir John — shall go off balked, and disappointed in the enjoyment of what he has so long desired, and paid us so handsomely for, and will most generously recompence you if you behave as you ought to do." If the trepanned dams<sup>e</sup>l prove deaf to their remonstrances, or implore with tears, their sparing of her ; then downright force is employed, each limb of her is seized by a different person, and she by rudest compulsion is reduced to a proper situation for being abused ; which horrid treatment is repeated as often as she proves refractory.

What part of the town or environs she had been conveyed to, she know not.—She is too well watched pos-  
sibly to attempt an escape. Numb<sup>d</sup> at last by sorrow and repeated acts of vio-  
lence,

lence, she dwindleth into a state of passive indifference.

In order to make sure of her as a property, she is forcibly detained in this conclave of prostitution three or four days, that so long an absence (from her being necessarily enquired after in the neighbourhood, as well as among her friends and relations) may make the matter worse, and cause the greater scandal; which bringing on her the reproaches of her family, make them and her native home become quite disagreeable. There being no hopes of retrieving her stained character, she even gives herself up to an unhappy course of life, into which her un foreseeing youth and innocence had been decoyed.

Polly —, the daughter of a decent couple, who lived not far from  
Hanover

Hanover Square, was reduced in the above recited manner, for allaying the levitical lust of a lecherous, irreverent Bishop, who appeared at the bawd's in the dress of an admiral. When she found her reputation so blasted, that the looks of all her late intimates scouled upbraidingly on her ; that their doors refused to open to any visit of her's : she spiritedly resolved, that the instruments of her undoing should not be benefited by that stock of beauty which nature had not dealt out to her in a niggardly manner. She went into genteel furnished lodgings at all events upon her own account, and got a servant-maid, who had formerly lived with her parents, to attend her, and give out to the people of the house, that she was a young lady from the West, of good family and fortune,

come

come to stay but a short time in London, on her way to France; whither (being of the Romish persuasion) she was to go, and there abide some time in a convent, for the compleating of her education.

At the first invitation of fair weather that happened, she went out on *the genteel ply* (as the term is among high flown *demi-reps*) and for that purpose sauntered up and down the Queen's Walk, and round the piece of water. She had scarce seated herself, in order to rest a-while, when she was agreeably surprized at the amiable Colonel — fitting beside her. He had followed the fair incognita some time, observing her shape and manner of walking, with which he was taken. The delicate tincture of her skin, and the arrangement of her features, were answerable.

answerable. The winning tones of her voice there was no resisting.

After a few common-place questions, and obliging answers, amorous glances incessantly interchanging all the time, the Colonel got the young adventuring lady's consent to join with him in a walk to the Wilderness, where, as their conversation grew warm, he found her of a coming disposition; therefore proposed their going to one of the Theatres together; which offer she readily accepted.

The Colonel being a good customer to the box-keeper, got the exclusive possession of a convenient upper box, which he locked on the inside, and so snug was the word. We need not lend any assistance to our reader's imagination, to paint to them what was there transacted, but let drop the curtain

tain of decency.—What actors perform'd, or what the nature of the piece was, whether serious or comic, was matter of total indifference, and quite unknown to them.

The company dispersed from the Theatre, the Colonel conveyed his new charmer to a neighbouring tavern, where, after supper, and an hour or two's amorous dalliance, the Colonel having complimented the lady in a generous manner, ordered the waiter to call a chair to convey her to her lodgings. His not having proposed to pass the night with her, arose from a necessity he was under of lying at his father's house, just then come to town, in order to make inspection into his son's manner of living, as he was negotiating a very advantageous match for him. The Colonel was (so far as  
the

the article of lying at home could contribute to give a character of regularity) obliged to play the hypocrite, to hit in with the humour of old Sir *John*, who was of so hasty a humour, that were he to have the least occasion to suspect his son's having any intrigue of gallantry, he might alter his will, much to the Colonel's detriment, in favour of a younger brother.

On parting, he desired Miss Polly —, to meet him at the same tavern next evening, about nine o'clock. She had found too obliging a friend in him to refuse his request. On the way to her lodging, she patted on the window of the chair with her fan, which was to desire the chairman to behave in such a manner, on setting her down at her lodging, as that not the least surmise hurtful to her might be conceived; she

also

also bid them to be sure to call there next evening about nine o'clock. They promised discretion and punctuality.

At her first set off, our new female adventurer found the sweets of acting for herself, without the extorting inter-mediation of the villainous tribe of prostitution brokers. But she did not, as yet, see some disagreeable rubs, and strokes of pimping machiavelism that she was to undergo, all which arise from the unhappy succession of ruined virgins being the implicit property of the pandar-society, to wit, pimps, bawds, and tally-women of every de-gree.

Next morning, at the hour of breakfast, Miss Polly's fancy, now weaning itself by degrees from all sense of remorse, was flattered with the pleasing idea of the Colonel's per-  
son,

son, the rapturous encounters they had together, as well as those to follow in their future meetings; then judged from his first payment, that she should acquire a handsome sum from him, perhaps a settlement.

While she was in a soothing reverie of this kind, her servant notified to her that a gentleman desired to speak with her. She ordered he might be conducted up, not imagining who it could be. Presently entered, with a spruced-up air of confidence, the smartish figure of a young man, who, ere she had time to ask, very familiarly seated himself, and looked towards her with a smiling air of protection.

Surprized (as she had reason to be) at such forward behaviour, Miss Polly asked, "Pray, Sir, your business with me? Be so kind as to let me know  
who

who you are ; for I cannot recollect to have ever seen you before."

" Never to have seen me before ! Sure, fair lady, you mistake, or your memory must be exceeding short (replied the impudent varlet) " It was I who waited on you and the officer you were with last night."

" That may be, young man," (she answered with a cold look of disdain) " but I was so taken up with that gentleman, that I had no leisure to admit any impression of your features on my memory ; besides, if I had, your now extraordinary appearance in a laced frock, bag-wig, &c. would put me quite astray."

" O ma'am, permit me to observe to you, that when you shall be a little better acquainted with the ways of the town, of life, as we call it, you will not

not be surprised to see us clever waiters, pay our morning-visits, elegantly dressed, to ladies of the profession, in which you now shine among the foremost ; nay, shall be the very first if you enter into my views. Thus we dress when we go in order to collect our dues, and to participate of the favours, which by our employment we are intitled to.

“ What dues, what favours ? ” she interrupted him with some emotion. “ Our dues (commonly called poundage) are five shillings out of every guinea which the lady gets from each gentleman. The favours are, to thus call to see you in a morning, to kiss your fair hand, and — — —

As the pert waiter was going to take some liberty with her, she rang the

L

bell,

bell; and to the maid, who came running in, gave orders, that gentleman should never be admitted more. The disappointed *cork-drawer* swelling with rage, departed with the menacing airs of a man of quality; and vowed ample revenge for her having dared to refuse the offer of his embraces.

The impudent varlet being withdrawn, she sunk into a thoughtful mood, on reflecting to what a series of indignities a poor young girl is liable, from the moment she has let herself be seduced; and is in consequence abandoned by her friends.—“ To dwindle into a convenient property, to be practised upon by all the low rable of brothel-servants. O ! horrible to think — Madness lies that way — and yet the unhappy she, who refuses the shocking addresses of such despicable

cable beings, will be often run into the trying misery of want, by the artful contrivance of such vicious agents.

To confirm her surmises, her landlady rushed into the room, and thus abruptly accosted her, "I am astonished, Madam, that one of your sort would have the impudence to come and lodge in a reputable house like mine."

"One of my sort! what do you mean, woman?" retorted the other, "Yes, I say, one of your sort," rejoined the landlady; "a pretty flim-flam story you have had told to me of your going to a convent in France—The bagnios in and about Covent-Garden, are the places fittest for you.—Nay, you need not stare, and look so astonished at what I say to you. The gentleman who is just gone away

from you, has informed me what a vile wretch you are; that you were last night at the tavern with a friend of his, to whom you have given the foul disease; and that he came to reproach you on that account.—I forgive you your lodging for the time you have been here; would think it a scandal to take any money got in lewd ways, such as you follow: therefore provide a sleeping-place without delay for yourself. In this house you shall not remain to-night.—I would not for fifty guineas it were spred abroad among the neighbours, that a *town-madam*, forsooth, had lodged one night in this apartment. I should never be able to let it to reputable lodgers again. O fy upon you, vile creature, with such an angel face, to be such a devil incarnate.—Mind what I say to you; for should

should you neglect it, your things shall be thrown into the street, and the door never be unlocked to suffer so abandoned a body to come into my house, a house that has always bore as good a character as any other house of lodging in this or the next parish".

The landlady would have gone on for an hour longer in her outrageous and uncharitable declarations of virtue, but that the unfortunate Polly —— beseeched her to lower the tone of her voice (which she apprehended might stop the people going by, in order to inquire what might be the cause of such an uproar) and assured her, that her request in consequence of that *gentleman sharper's* partly-false representation, should be complied with. Upon which Mrs. Termagant went out of the room.

The ejected lodger gave directions to her maid, to go and take the first apartment, cheap or dear, she could get.—She went in search, and soon returned with the news of her having got one.—A coach being called, the mistress bid her maid pack up all the things to put therein. When they decamped, she gave the landlady's servant half a guinea, more than sufficient for the time.

As soon as they were arrived at their new lodging, the afflicted mistress desired her servant to leave her for a while to herself, in order to disburthen the grief brooding on her mind, from the gross and affrontful treatment which she had received.—“ What a hardened villain must this waiter be, to have so traduced me at my lodging! His next care, no doubt, will be to

ruin.

ruin me in the Colonel's opinion. How unhappy is the poor girl's case, who, once fallen from virtue, and an outcast by her family and friends, must enter upon, and continue in a course of folly for subsistence?—To be liable to the insults, and what is still more offensive to any mind where the least tincture of delicacy remains, the offer of their odious caresses, by the menial fellows of a tavern or bagnio!"

When she had sufficiently indulged her grief, and evening was come, she sent about the appointed hour of rendezvous at the tavern, a porter, to enquire if the Colonel was there. The baulked and irritated waiter, who took care to be in the way of any person that should enquire for the Colonel that evening, having wormed out of the porter what quarter he had been

sent from, by a description of Polly's person, gave for answer, that the Colonel was gone to join his regiment that morning; and that his promising to meet any lady at their tavern, was a usual joke with him on his going out of town.

This answer passed current with the disappointed belle, who never imagined that any waiter would dare to advance so great a falsehood. The Colonel's reported departure added new cause to her affliction.

When the Colonel came to the tavern, he ordered the waiter to let nobody to him, but the lady that had been with him the night before. The tavern-Machiavel on the instant replied, " Alas, Sir, you must wait a long time, ere you can have any chance of seeing her; she is a wicked wretch,

wretch, and is said to have gone off this morning to Holland with a merchant's clerk of the city, who, by her wicked persuasion, has robbed his master of a considerable sum of money. — Several complain of being hurt by her ; I hope, Sir, you have received no injury."

" Damn her," said the Colonel. " I could not have suspected her to be such a vixen," then gave the waiter money for his misinformation, and went off not a little anxious, lest he should have made a venereal acquisition.

However, next morning as the Colonel was sauntering along the Birdcage-walk with the Bishop of —, a near relation to him, both their ears were struck with these words from a female voice. " Lord, I have longed for,

and do now greatly rejoice at the pleasure of seeing you, which I almost despaired of." They both turned about together ; the Colonel looked angrily, though it was to him she had addressed her words.

The sudden and unexpected sight of the wench, and her beginning with the word, Lord, made the Bishop in the first hurry of confusion betray himself to her ; he having been her debaucher, in the appearance of an Admiral, as heretofore related. He called her aside, bid her to call on him the next morning, at no doubt a sham address, and that he would give her marks of his friendship.

" No, Sir, said she, or my Lord, or whatever your title may be in the church, I will not part with you, unless you give me a solemn promise

before

before the Colonel, with whom you seem to be intimate, and who is my friend, that you will allow me some annual compensation for the infamous manner of living, that you are the occasion of my being plunged into."

She called the Colonel, to whom she repeated the whole adventure in so artless a phrase, that the Bishop could not be off promising an annuity, to be conveyed in the most prudent manner, that to them should occur. — She stopt the Colonel's going to upbraid her about the lye concerning the merchant's clerk, by telling in so artless a manner, as that carried conviction, the insolent behaviour of the tavern-waiter to her; the difficulty he had thrown her into: which gave a key to the rest.

The Bishop having taken his leave of them, as he deemed his presence then rather one too many ; the Colonel walked out of the park with her, called for a hackney-coach, drove immediately to the tavern, and upon confronting her with the waiter, soon convicted the fellow of his knavery, for which by the master of the house he was immediately turned off. Then the Colonel drove with her to his lawyer in the Temple, to have a proper settlement drawn up, which he took care to get the Bishop to sign without loss of time. This was true military justice, to punish his Reverence for poaching in a false appearance, and bringing disgrace on the apparel of a Commanding officer.

The Colonel having thus exerted himself against the Waiter and the Bishop,

Bishop, in behalf of an injured girl, he took a pretty snug furnished house for her in the purlieus of Chelsea, where he continued his visits to her in a very private manner, till such time as the offer was made to him of a very advantageous marriage, with a young lady descended from a most noble family, possessed of a very ample fortune, and still more valuable for her qualifications of body and mind, it being hard to determine to which to give the superiority.

As the Colonel, from a nice sense of honour, could not resolve to maintain any longer an unlawful intercourse detrimental to so amiable a wife; he broke his mind on that head, with a generous frankness to his mistress. She behaved with a commendable discretion, expressed a proper regret upon the loss of so agreeable and so useful

ful a friend ; but concluded, it would be ingratitude in her to labour to dissuade him from what was so apparently to his advantage.

They parted in the resolution of preserving a modest friendship for each other. The Colonel made her a very considerable present, observing, at the same time, that with said sum, added to the Bishop's annuity, she might live in a decent independence, without being exposed to any illicit pursuits for a subsistence ; that if she were to take proper care of herself (she not having been known on the town) he made no doubt of her being soon disposed of in marriage, and not disreputably.

She followed his advice, went to pass the summer at Brighthelmston, where she and her adventure were entirely unheard of. She happened in the

the assembly room to attract, by her figure and her conversation (much improved since her acquaintance with the Colonel) the regard of a Clergyman, whose livings amounted to seven hundred pounds *per annum*. So she once more reverted to the church, and has ever since continued a model of exemplary deportment in the married state; and the best adviser to young females, how to defend themselves, and fly from the snares of seductive man. She merited this happy escape, as she was not vicious through inclination, but had been decoyed thro' a deep-laid scheme for her undoing.

## C H A P. V.

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Female Charms, &c.*

WHEN the Author was come to this, the conclusive part of his work, he judged it prudent, lest he should omit any article of consequence, to consult thereon a Lady of his acquaintance; that before she was aware of danger, by an inconsiderate act of indulgence to a false Strephon, had been hurried on the town: yet by a notable turn of mind, and persevering exertion, soon rescued herself from the necessity of any vile intermediation, or dependence whatsoever, but such as he should be pleased to fix on, and should find expedient to her purpose.

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On the time of application being made for her assistance on so delicate a subject, she was setting out to the country for some time, but promised that in a few days she would send a letter to him by post, which should prove entirely to his satisfaction, as therein should be faithfully contained the history of her fall and rise. As the humour and useful hints it contains, need no farther apology, the letter is here communicated to the public, without any alteration.

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“ I now proceed to fulfil my promise to you on leaving London.—As the public-spirited author of the book for the other sex, called, *Every Man his own Broker*, whom I glory here to emulate, declares, that he was induced

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duced to his patriotic undertaking from experience, having early lost his little fortune in the Alley ; “ private losses become sometimes a general good ;” so I confess, my case has not been dissimilar.

From my early frequenting the Play-houses, I too readily received tickets from all young sparks who offered them, because, buoyed up with hopes of intrapping one, or other, in the matrimonial noose ; but ill starred wench I fell myself a prey, instead of making one.

For an unlucky moment came—my prudence was gone gadding abroad—my foiled cunning was soon tript up ; I thrown upon my back, and laid in a helpless supine posture : which must have drawn compassion from any other being, but from hard-hearted, unrelenting.

lenting man. The blaster of my schemes *laughed at my situation*, and soon (although I cried out as loud as I could for help, for mercy, and screamed murder, murder) robbed me of my little all, *mon petit bien*, as the French call it.

Not satisfied with having thus dis-honoured me himself, he wantonly proclaimed my shame abroad to all his wicked companions, whom, in a most insolent manner, he used to billet upon me, one after the other ; and whenever we met, would ask me with an insulting sneer, if I had a thorough sense of the obligation I was under to him, for the new trade he had taught me, and the frequent customers he sent to bid, and purchase the commodity I dealt in ?

My name was up—and as the old saying is, I had nothing to do, but *to*

*ly on my back.* A series of adventures have since befallen me, which it would be impertinent to trouble the public with ; but were all the consequences of having ventured to be alone with a man, *meglio e contentarsi che lamentarsi*, is a good lesson, but very hard to practise, especially in an age so prone to scandal as the present is.

For as the malicious Brokers have swollen every hundred pound of that harmless author's debts into so many thousands, so every act of compliance which I have been guilty of since my first fatal slip, hath been multiplied an hundred fold ; and this calumny has sprung from the very man and his companions, who first debauched, and after established my infamy.

But scrupulously conscious to myself of all that I have done, no more, as well

well as regardless of the censure of distempered brains, and malevolent hearts ; I now, through your request, mean to sally forth a female champion, by way of atonement for my past errors, and to appear in print the future guardian from indigence, of my sexes frailty, by following my example : which, that every deluded girl may be enabled to do, it is proper that having already told you the accident by which I was installed an harlot, I now sketch out to you the maxims by which I emerged from that vile state, to be the woman of consequence I now figure.

I often reflected, that silly girls, after being seduced and thrown upon the town, have it mostly in their power to put themselves soon in a state of independency, as a gentleman who had travelled

travelled told me, was the way with the ladies of pleasure in Italy, where a pretty prostitute is the sure rise of a poor family.—I put the Italian method in practice, and found it answer beyond the utmost of my wishes.

I took a small furnished house, where every gentleman who proposed an amorous intercourse, lodged, and paid for his bedding, supper, wine, and every other article (which I took care to furnish myself with at the first hand) as dear as if at any of the Covent-Garden Bagnios.—Thus all the tavern profit came clear into my own pocket, without the necessity of paying poundage out of my own perquisite.—My servant's places were very lucrative; they always got a compliment from each gallant.

Now,

Now, let any town-lady, in a tolerable run of business, calculate how much could be thus saved neat money in her own pocket at the end of one year ;—a little Fortune!

When any gallant would treat me with an article of apparel, ornament, &c. I insisted upon buying it myself, and charged him double, which was no more than what the tally-woman would do.

I totally divested myself of all affection for the other sex, from a thorough conviction of their falseness. When a suiter declared himself smitten with ardent desire ; my first proposal was, “ Will you marry me ?” to the negative, answer ; my second was, Will you settle ? if to that he pleaded incapacity, my definitive treaty was ; “ such is the price a for transient favour here ;

so

so much for a continued one, to rise according to the duration, and to be paid beforehand, as well as all incidental expences, because I would allow no possibility of a bilk.

The benefit-seasons at the playhouse I made very beneficial to me ; for to each successive spark I pretended that the impending benefit of the day was for a particular friend, and that he must give me gold for both our tickets. I never went, and so pocketed the cash.

By this prudent system I have cleared in a few years many thousands ; am now withdrawn from business ; have an elegant town and country-house ; keep a post-chariot and four, and have daily, I assure you, many reputable wooers on the score of matrimony.

I am, SIR,

Your's, &c.